MacFORMAT ISSUE 215 December 2009

The 20 biggest Mac problems > Sat nav on the iPhone > Group test: 500GB hard drives > Palm Pre reviewed Printed in the UK

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Mac FORMAT

>Mac >iPod >iPhone
>Issue 215 December 2009

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Subscribe to MacFormat to **save £27** on the newsstand price, and get an Intempo iDS01 Unplugged iPod Speaker Dock worth £44.99! **p30**

According to Apple's adverts the only computers that ever crash are Windows PCs and Mac owners never need to worry about startup bugs, lost files or strange error messages. Well, it does have a point – compared to Windows PCs, Macs are far more reliable, robust and secure – yet they are far from infallible.

Because Macs are so well built, we tend to hang onto them for longer. But the longer you've owned your Mac, the more chance there is you'll encounter some sort of problem. One day you might find that your previously well-behaved Mac throws a wobbly and just refuses to boot up. But don't despair. In this month's *MacFormat* we've got some expert advice on how to beat the most common Mac problems, and to follow on with the theme we also have a special feature on solving the 20 most common issues that our readers have encountered on their Mac after upgrading to Snow Leopard.

Also this month, my esteemed colleague Christopher Phin has been road testing sat-nav apps for the iPhone. We've also had the new iPod challenger, the Palm Pre, in the office to play with, plus Ian has been thrashing six new 500GB hard drives to within an inch of their lives. All in all, it's another bumper issue of *MacFormat!*

Graham Barlow, Editor
graham.barlow@futurenet.com
twitter.com/MacFormat

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Deputy Editor

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Reviews Editor

"While USB flash drives are getting bigger and cheaper, for high-needs mobile storage, you still can't beat a portable hard drive."
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OS X expert

"The Mac is vulnerable. There, I said it. And now we've got that out in the open we can move on and start working out how to properly protect ourselves."
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Technical wizard

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Tweet from your menu bar

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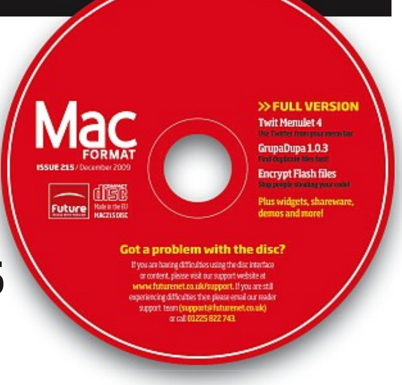
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● NEWS & OPINION ● EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS ● LATEST GADGETS ● READER LETTERS

Apple released a swathe of fresh products, including a Multi-Touch mouse with no buttons.

- iMacs go king-size at 27 inches
- Magic Mouse boasts Multi-Touch
- New MacBook & Mac mini server

NEWS IN BRIEF

Levinson leaves
Genentech CEO and Apple board member, Arthur Levinson, has left the Google board, a move welcomed by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). It follows the departure of Google's Eric Schmidt from Apple's board, as the search giant enters Apple's business sectors with the Android and Chrome OSes.

New iMacs and a Magic Mouse

Apple has introduced new model iMacs and Mac minis, and reinvigorated the white MacBook. And, as if that wasn't enough, the company also introduced a new Multi-Touch-savvy Bluetooth Magic Mouse and Apple Remote.

The introduction was interesting; online stores in Asia blipped-out, one by one, Switzerland followed, then stores closed across Europe and America. The hours that followed saw Apple hit the top 10 tweet discussions on Twitter as the Mac faithful sought out clues. Finally, the stores re-opened and the new products were revealed.

iMacs reinvented

The new iMacs are equipped with 21.5-inch and 27-inch LED-backlit displays with a 16:9 aspect ratio. There's a new edge-to-edge glass design and the body consists of an all-aluminium enclosure. Both 21.5- and 27-inch displays use IPS technology to deliver consistent colour across an ultra-wide 178-degree viewing angle.

They feature Intel Core 2 Duo processors starting at 3.06GHz, with Core i5 and i7 quad-core processors being a build-to-order option, shipping in November. They support video in, so you use them as a monitor (or home entertainment system).

Graphics are powered by NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics or

APPLE IN PICTURES / Cooks up a treat

O2-UK
12:56
20 Minute Meals
jamie oliver
20 minute meals
Last recipe viewed
Bacon and asparagus pappardelle
serves 2 or 4
Choose a dish
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JAMIE OLIVER
Jamie's *20 Minute Meals* app includes 50 mouth-watering recipes with stunning full-screen photography and easy step-by-step instructions.

an ATI Radeon HD 4670 card in the 21.5-inch, and a ATI Radeon HD 4670 or ATI Radeon HD 4850 card in the 27-inch model.

Every Mac features 4GB of RAM and a 16GB capacity across four slots, a built-in iSight camera, mic and stereo speakers, AirPort Extreme, Bluetooth, Gigabit Ethernet, four USB 2.0 ports, FireWire 800 and a built-in SD card slot.

Four models are available: the 21.5-inch, 3.06GHz model with 500GB drive and NVIDIA GeForce 9400M graphics, at £949; and the same model with a 1TB drive and ATI Radeon HD 4670, at £1,199. The 27-inch 3.06GHz model costs £1,349 using ATI graphics, while the best 27-inch Core i5 iMac hosts 2.66GHz quad-core processors, ATI graphics and a 1TB drive, for £1,599.

APPLE IN NUMBERS
23%
Apple's share of the US smartphone market.

New MacBook

The £799 13.3-inch MacBook has been redesigned with a new polycarbonate shell and a unibody design similar to that of the aluminium MacBook Pro. It hosts an Intel Core 2 Duo 2.26GHz processor, NVIDIA GeForce 9400M integrated graphics, 2GB RAM and a 250GB drive. An LED screen, seven-hour battery life, two USB ports, audio in/out, video out, iSight, Multi-Touch trackpad and AirPort Extreme also feature.

Mini revolution

The three new Core 2 Duo Mac minis sport 2.26GHz (£499, 2GB RAM) and 2.53GHz (£649, 4GB RAM) options, with 160GB and 320GB drives respectively. The third (£799) 2.53GHz model offers 1TB capacity across two 500GB drives and runs as a media server via Snow Leopard Server; this model lacks an optical drive.

The first mouse to use the Multi-Touch technology Apple pioneered on the iPhone, Magic Mouse lets you navigate your Mac using finger gestures. There are no mechanical buttons on the £55 device, which features a touch-sensitive enclosure with advanced gesture support, suitable for left and right-handed users and equipped with advanced power management to save wasting the two AA batteries inside.

As well as the Magic Mouse, the new iMacs ship with a new Apple Remote (£15), (which also works with an iPod/iPhone). ●

"A laptop was no longer a cut-down, 'lite' version of the experience you'd get on a desktop"

Christopher Phin reflects on how far portable tech has come in the last five years, thanks to Apple. »

Apple talk

Who's saying what?

Steve Jobs
www.apple.com

"The App Store has reinvented what you can do with a mobile handheld device, our users are clearly loving it."

Jobs bigs up apps and why everybody should own an iPhone

Eric Schmidt
www.google.com

"Very sophisticated people are using Macs now. We need to get Chrome out for it, which we'll have in a couple of months."

Chrome browser for Macs is just around the corner

Joshua Andrew Strickon
www.apple.com

"It couldn't be built. The battery life wasn't long enough, the graphics performance wasn't enough to do anything and the components themselves cost more than $500."

Ex-Apple engineer tells NYT of prior problems in Apple tablet plan

Steven Hartley
www.ovumkc.com

"There will be a price war in every country where there is more than one operator selling it for cheaper."

Analysts are predicting a raging UK iPhone price showdown very soon

Have you heard any great Apple quotes? Email us at macformat@futurenet.com

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Small is beautiful

Christopher Phin

Recently, I've noticed that my behaviour and preconceptions about technology have started to change. And I'm curious to know if I'm alone in my thinking.

Historically, the power of computers and their usefulness have been in inverse proportion to their portability; the more portable a slab of tech is, the less it can do, and the more static a computer, the more powerful – hence, often, more useful – it is. The curve has begun to soften in the last five years, as processors, in general, have become sufficiently capable for tasks demanded by the majority of users. A laptop is no longer a cut-down, 'lite' version of the experience you'd get on a desktop.

The expectations of what a computer can do are so ingrained that I think we underestimate how useful and usable iPhone-sized tech can be. I've begun to realise that I frequently turn to my iPhone before my MacBook Pro. This is partly because the iPhone has a persistent connection to the internet (something the SIM-less notebook doesn't have) and it says as much about the nature of the work and play we do now that this is important. It's also partly because, since the security can be controlled by a responsible IT department, my work email and calendars are on there. (While Snow Leopard makes it possible to hook up *Mail* and the rest to our Exchange server, our IT folks are still looking at the repercussions.)

> *"The iPhone's new interface and small screen forces a more polished, considered approach to interface design"*

But even more than these, it's because the iPhone's new interface and small screen forces a more polished, considered approach to interface design, as well as a more focussed experience. When I want to check train times it's easier to fire up the *National Rail* app than it is to go through the Safari > type address > navigate-to-correct-section experience on the web.

That smaller, more personal computers are getting more powerful is not news; I am delighted to note, however, that they are often more useful than the traditional do-anything model that has evolved into the modern desktop experience.

MF's resident jobsworth, Chris Phin, now has work email installed on his iPhone. Email him on christopher.phin@futurenet.com.

The choice of networks has now opened up for iPhone users.

NETWORK NEWS

iPhone goes Orange in the UK

O2 loses exclusive grip on iPhone sales

There's no longer any need to sign up to O2 in order to get your hands on an iPhone in the UK, as it has been announced that the carrier has lost its exclusive rights to distribute the device.

The latest news is that Orange and Vodafone will also be offering the smartphone here.

However, Orange will beat Vodafone to it, as it will be offering the iPhone 3G and 3GS to its customers from this month. Orange now provides the iPhone in 28 countries and territories. Vodafone will begin offering the Apple mobile in early 2010.

APPLE IN NUMBERS

£10 million

Number of iPhone/iPod touch apps downloaded every day.

O2 hasn't lost all rights to sell the must-have gadget – it will continue to offer the iPhone for sale to its customers.

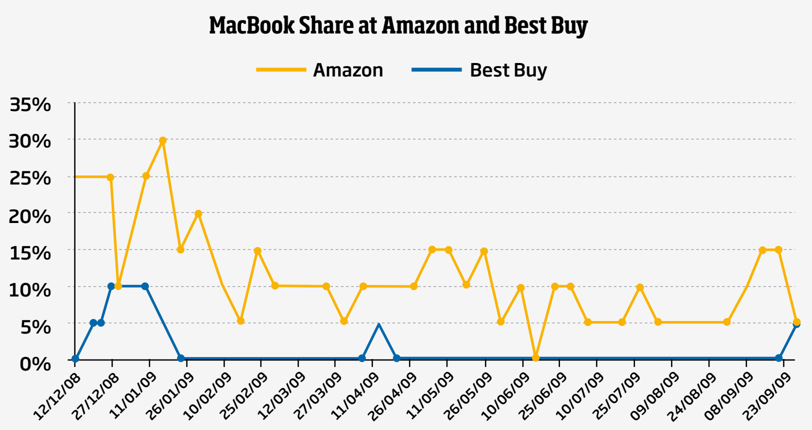
As *MacFormat* goes to press, there are very strong suggestions that T-Mobile will also offer the device, pending its merger with O2 in the UK next year. This hasn't yet been confirmed.

Given the frequency of complaints regarding O2's 3G coverage, many iPhone users are likely to migrate to Orange when their contracts expire, so it's possible O2 will offer better deals to existing customers in an attempt to keep their business. As we go to press, O2 is denying it intends a price war, telling Stuff.tv, "We've sold more than a million iPhones, so we're confident – there are no plans for price cuts".

Orange has the largest 3G network in the UK and is likely to stress this as it attempts to sell the device through its network of shops and online channels. Computer Warehouse will also be joined by Phones4U in offering the Apple mobile through its high-street chains, which are now on a choice of networks.

Good news for consumers is that an increase in competition between operators selling the iPhone may mean cheaper deals. We anticipate competitive deals on monthly tariffs, contract duration and – potentially – the inclusion of free tethering. No information on iPhone pricing, tariffs and availability has been revealed by Orange or Vodafone as yet. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS / MacBook sells



Sources: Amazon and Best Buy websites, Morgan Keegan

Morgan Stanley believes Apple is grabbing a substantial slice of the consumer PC market, noting, "an increase in Mac demand following the release of Snow Leopard… We believe this reflects the improved value proposition of the range, which has been performing well on Amazon and Best Buy." *Thanks to Morgan Stanley and analyst, Tavis McCourt.*

HOT OR NOT?

The latest word from the Apple rumour mill

HOT: iPhone replaces wallet
Developers are scrambling to build solutions that enable iPhones to act as credit card terminals, or to replace your cashcard or wallet.

HOT: Apple buys ARM
With ARM chips at the heart of so many competing devices and the company publicly traded, will Apple move to take a controlling interest in the firm?

NOT: Facebook takeover
Apple is weak in social networking. MobileMe somehow lacks the 'sticky' factor needed for success. Why not acquire Facebook to gain the expertise?

NOT: iTunes LP 'tax'
Claims Apple charges labels $10,000 to make albums for *iTunes* LP were reported, but have been denied. Apple charges no fee and is releasing specs for all labels.

NEW TECHNOLOGY

Speed of Light Peak

Intel/Apple cook up fastest connection yet

Apple intends replacing every interface currently on your Mac with one standard capable of handling everything: USB cable, FireWire, iPod/iPhone and Ethernet. It will even handle your monitor connections.

These plans emerged after Intel's regular Intel Developer Forum (IDF) in late September. Intel demonstrated a technology that is currently called Light Peak, which can drive a greater-than-HD display while saturating a RAID system, all through one single cable.

Light Peak is a 10Gb/s bus standard, capable of pushing out a huge quantity of data every moment – it takes under 30 seconds to transfer a full-length Blu-ray film, for example. That's ten times faster than Gigabit Ethernet and much faster than the technology Apple presently uses to drive its displays and transfer media to iPods. Intel claims Light Peak could potentially reach 100Gb/s within the next decade.

During the IDF demo, 9to5Mac.com noted how Intel made use of Mac OS X and was running on a Mac-based development system. This is because Apple and Intel have been developing the new interconnection in their R&D labs.

Apple is understood to have been pushing for the standard for some time as it attempts to regulate the plethora of cables users are surrounded by today, with a single unified interface that's equal to any task.

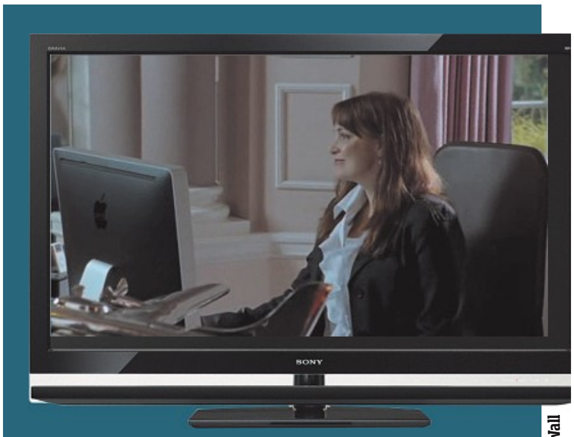
An optical technology, Light Peak can run multiple protocols simultaneously over a single cable, enabling it to connect diverse devices such as peripherals, workstations, displays, disk drives, docking stations and more.

Products implementing the new interconnect are expected perhaps as soon as late 2010, some reports claim. ●

APPLE IN NUMBERS

2,200

Quantity of iPhones sold daily by 02, The Telegraph claims.



BBC/Wall To Wall

AppleonTV

The Mac is ready for its close-up

Fans of ITV drama series, *Midsomer Murders* may have seen this Mac's appearance in 'The Glitch', episode four of the current series, which broadcast 23 September. Thanks to Alison Ogilvie for the tip.

If you've spotted a Mac on television, then email macformat@futurenet.com and tell us all about it!

>> ACROSS THE POND

Style and substance

Susie Ochs

The *New York Times* has reported that Steve Jobs was helping the Walt Disney Company redesign 340 Disney Stores as more entertainment-focused retail destinations. The new stores, which may be rebranded as "Imagination Park," will have high-tech, interactive flourishes inspired by Apple Stores. Jobs, a Disney board member, urged the company to go beyond a simple redecoration.

This idea made me wonder what other shops might look like if Jobs helped make decisions. What if the whole mall felt like one big Apple Store? For example, Imagination Park stores would have theatres showing exclusive Disney content. So how about a high-tech, Apple-inspired multiplex cinema? Patrons could reserve seats online, on an iPhone, or at a mall kiosk. You would order snacks to your seat via touchscreens on the armrests, and built-in iPod docks would upload a free sampling of music from the film's soundtrack.

Apple Stores have mobile checkouts, enabling employees to take your payment anywhere so you don't have to stand in line – another idea transferred to Imagination Park. A high-tech McDonald's could also eliminate lines by letting customers order from interactive Multi-Touch tables, which could keep you happy with branded games and entertainment until your food arrives.

> *"I'm picturing kiosks that suggest treatments for symptoms, history and vitals, verified by a live pharmacist"*

The Apple Store's interactivity and expert support are a fit for pharmacy chains, too. I'm picturing user-friendly kiosks that would suggest treatments for symptoms, history and vitals, verified by a live pharmacist offering human wisdom. Clothing stores could educate buyers with classes and one-on-one help, using body-imaging software to show what styles and cuts flatter their particular body type. Then it'd be easy to suggest specific pieces and entire outfits to fit any individual's style and wardrobe.

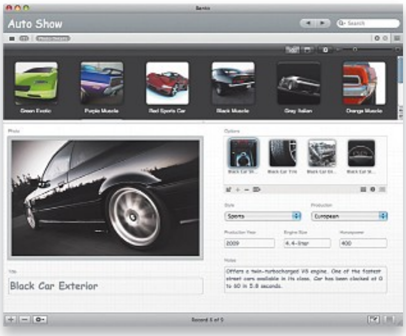
Hopefully, more stores can learn from the secrets of Apple's retail success, and the everyday boring shopping-mall experience will benefit from just thinking different.

Susie Ochs, top tech writer, extraordinary thrill seeker and hardcore burrito enthusiast is also the Senior Editor of *Mac|Life*.

>> SOFTWARE NEWS

Bento 3 is here

New version of FileMaker system arrives



Offers a twin-turbocharged V8 engine. One of the fastest street cars available in its class. Car has been clocked at 0 to 60 in 5.8 seconds.

Use Bento to make easy-to-understand lists of anything you own – even your sports cars…

FileMaker has introduced *Bento 3*, the latest edition of its information management system for consumers with a drive to detail their digital data.

Bento 3, reviewed on page 89, brings improvements in how users can view, use and share photos, contacts and calendars. There's full integration with *iPhoto*, multi-user sharing and better security. *iPhoto* users can link their images to contacts, projects, events and more inside *Bento 3*.

One useful improvement means users can share their *Bento* libraries with up to five users over a wired or wireless local network. It's also possible to encrypt any field and assign passwords to secure data.

In addition, a new Grid view displays thumbnails of photos, text and numeric-based information, while improved File Lists show image thumbnails, instead of just text.

The number of pre-designed templates included within the app have grown to 35, including setups for job hunting, home searching, holiday planning – even wine collecting. If you need more templates, the new *Bento Template Exchange* lets you download and use a selection of hundreds designed by other users.

Filemaker has also introduced *Bento 1.0.3* for iPhone and iPod touch.

Bento 3 costs £29.95 but, for a limited time only, FileMaker is offering a £10 rebate to existing users of *Bento 1* and *Bento 2* through an instant rebate scheme to early upgraders. ●

>> APPLE IN NUMBERS

2 billion

Number of apps downloaded through the App Store.

Stockwatch

A look at the world of Apple business with Clem Chambers

While day traders stare at second-by-second ticking prices, investors take a more stately view, looking at a chart of a year or two.

Apple's history can be traced back to the first day of trading. The recent history shows stellar success and a claw back from the credit crunch.

A lack of volatility suggests the market is sure Apple is winning, so the price will rise with only minor hiccups. As the market looks forward about a year, this suggests the minds of Apple's followers think the company has got it nailed for the next 12 months. With the Apple tablet looming large, this seems like the wisdom of crowds. But outside the Apple hive-mind, the fact remains that it's an expensive stock, hooked on giant hit products. Yet only a fall would stand in the way of the Apple bandwagon at this point. When the Apple tablet is out and in the market for a few weeks, then a bear might look at the case against Apple.

Clem Chambers is CEO of ADVFN, Europe's leading stocks and shares website.

>> GREEN ISSUES

Apple ignites green debate

Apple quits major US lobby group in green protest

Apple has quit the US Chamber of Commerce in protest at that group's "criticism of plans to reduce US greenhouse gas emissions".

Apple VP, Catherine Novelli, told the Chamber: "Apple supports regulating greenhouse gas emissions, and it is frustrating to find the Chamber at odds with us in this effort." As a result, Apple quit its membership.

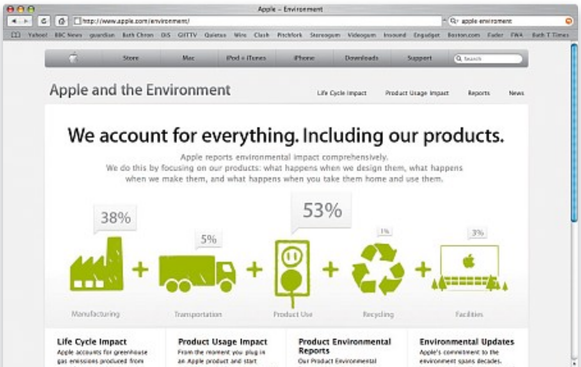
The Chamber opposes new laws designed to reduce emissions, despite complaints from members this policy is being maintained without their consent. This has cast a rift through corporate America – Apple was the fourth firm to quit the group in this green protest.

Apple also set new benchmarks for corporate accountability on green issues, updating its environmental disclosures to offer information on greenhouse gas emissions and the consequences of its product manufacture and use.

Responding to Apple's moves, Greenpeace praised Apple for its actions, saying, "At issue is the Chamber of Commerce's use of funds to oppose climate change legislation. Apple has done the right thing, and IBM and Microsoft should think different too."

Both Microsoft and IBM sit on the Chamber's board, prompting Greenpeace to say, "Now is the time for IBM and Microsoft to speak out against the position of the Chamber – or do what Apple did, and leave."

Responding to Apple's protest, Chamber Head, Thomas Donahue, questioned Apple CEO, Steve Jobs' judgment. However, US Energy Secretary, Steven Chu called it "wonderful" that firms quit the chamber over the climate issue. The Chamber shouldn't be "foot-dragging" on global warming, he said. ●



Apple and the Environment

We account for everything. Including our products.

Apple reports environmental impact comprehensively. We do this by focusing on our products: what happens when we design them, what happens when we make them, and what happens when you take them home and use them.

Life Cycle Impact
Apple accounts for greenhouse gas emissions produced from manufacturing, shipping, and using our products to recycling

Product Usage Impact
From the moment you plug in an Apple product and start using it, you make an impact on the environment. That's why we

Product Environmental Reports
Our Product Environmental Reports show the complete environmental footprint of every

Environmental Updates
Apple's commitment to the environment spans decades. View a timeline of environmental milestones and read about our

Apple publishes its most extensive data yet on the environmental consequences of its activities.

>> APPLE EVENTS / What's going on?

MACFORMAT
Issue 216
9 December
Look forward to the next issue of the UK's most popular Mac magazine, with all the latest Apple products reviewed.

CES, Las Vegas
7-10 January 2010
The Apple-focused CES area expands to 25,000 square feet next year; will Apple exhibit there in 2010?

BETT
13-16 January 2010
Apple always makes a splash at this essential annual UK education tech show, taking place days after CES in 2010.

NAMM, Anaheim, CA
14-17 January 2010
NAMM is always an event as one of the largest music product trade shows in the world. See the latest innovations for music creation announced here.

MACWORLD CONFERENCE AND EXPO
San Francisco
9-13 February 2010
Apple has already abandoned this event; will the rest of the industry follow Cupertino's lead?

CEBIT, HANNOVER,
2-6 March 2010
Europe's largest technology showcase attracts many decision makers from across the globe to its many halls.

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Podcast
Download MacFormat This Week from the iTunes Store or our website.

Forum
Visit forum.macformat.co.uk to chat to other MacFormat readers online.

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We're now on Twitter! Follow our tweets at twitter.com/MacFormat.

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Power / DSL
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Fixed Line
WLAN
INFO

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Seven FRITZ!Box Fon WLAN 7270 wireless routers must be won!

This is no ordinary wireless router. The FRITZ!Box Fon WLAN 7270 is packed with lots of interesting features. To get you on the net, it includes a built-in ADSL2+ modem, and also works with cable or fibre connections. It's Wireless N, so it can operate on the 2.4GHz or 5GHz waveband and offers a maximum theoretical transfer speed of 300 Mbps. Its advanced traffic-shaping feature does much to keep your internet service crisp and stable, even during large uploads or downloads, and its integrated USB port can be used to connect a printer or hard drive as a network device, or even a 3G dongle for internet access without a landline.

The FRITZ!Box Fon WLAN 7270 also offers a range of telephony features. There's two analogue ports for phones or fax machines, an integrated DECT base station supporting up to six cordless phones, VoIP support and integrated fax and answering-machine services. It's truly a top-of-the-range router, and we've got seven of them to give away.

The question

What is the theoretical maximum wireless data transfer rate of the FRITZ!Box Fon WLAN 7270?

A) 100 Mbps

B) 200 Mbps

C) 300 Mbps

For more info on the FRITZ!Box range of connectivity products, go to **www.fritzbox.eu**.

» HOW TO ENTER

- To enter, text FRITZ, followed by a space then your answer (A, B or C), space, then your name and address to 87474; or enter via our website at **www.macformat.co.uk** and click on the **Competition** link.
- By sending your entry, you agree to these competition rules and you confirm you are happy to receive details of future offers and promotions from Future Publishing Limited and carefully selected third parties.
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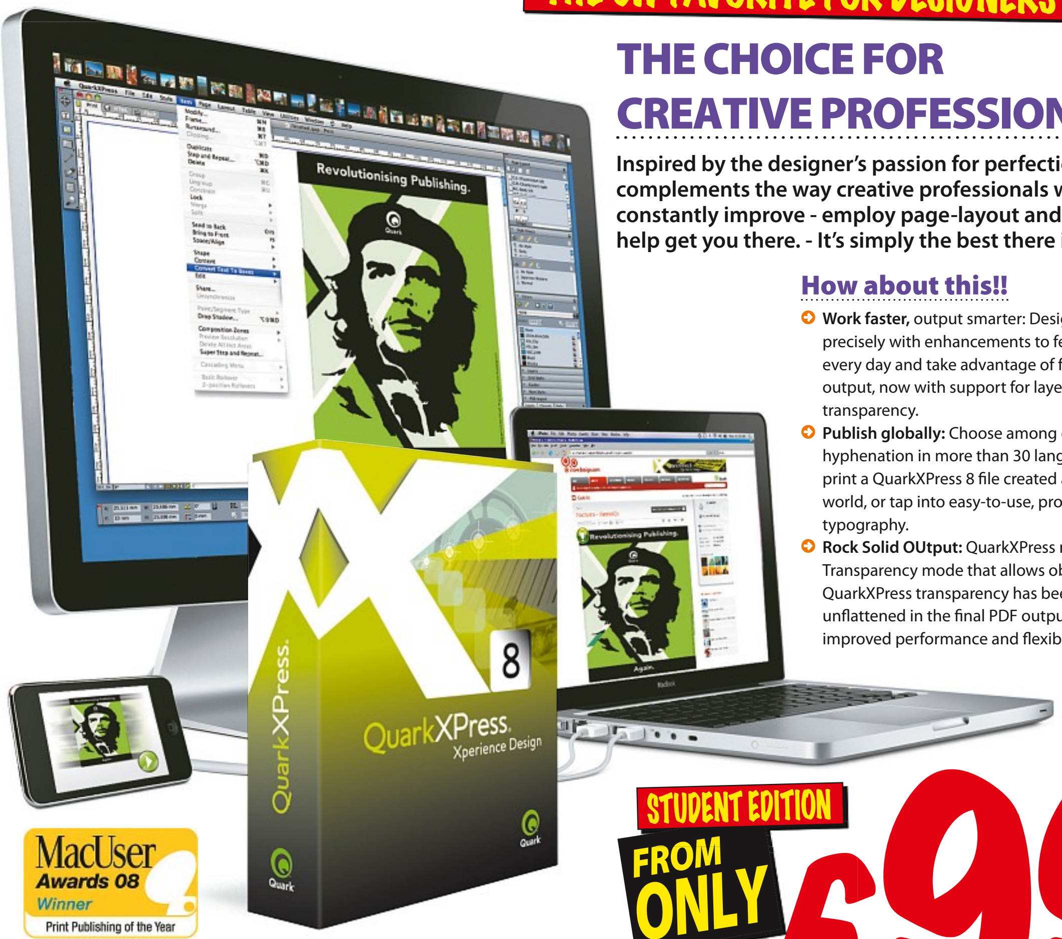

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Me&MyMac

MacFormat readers share their beloved Mac setups

>> CONTACT US

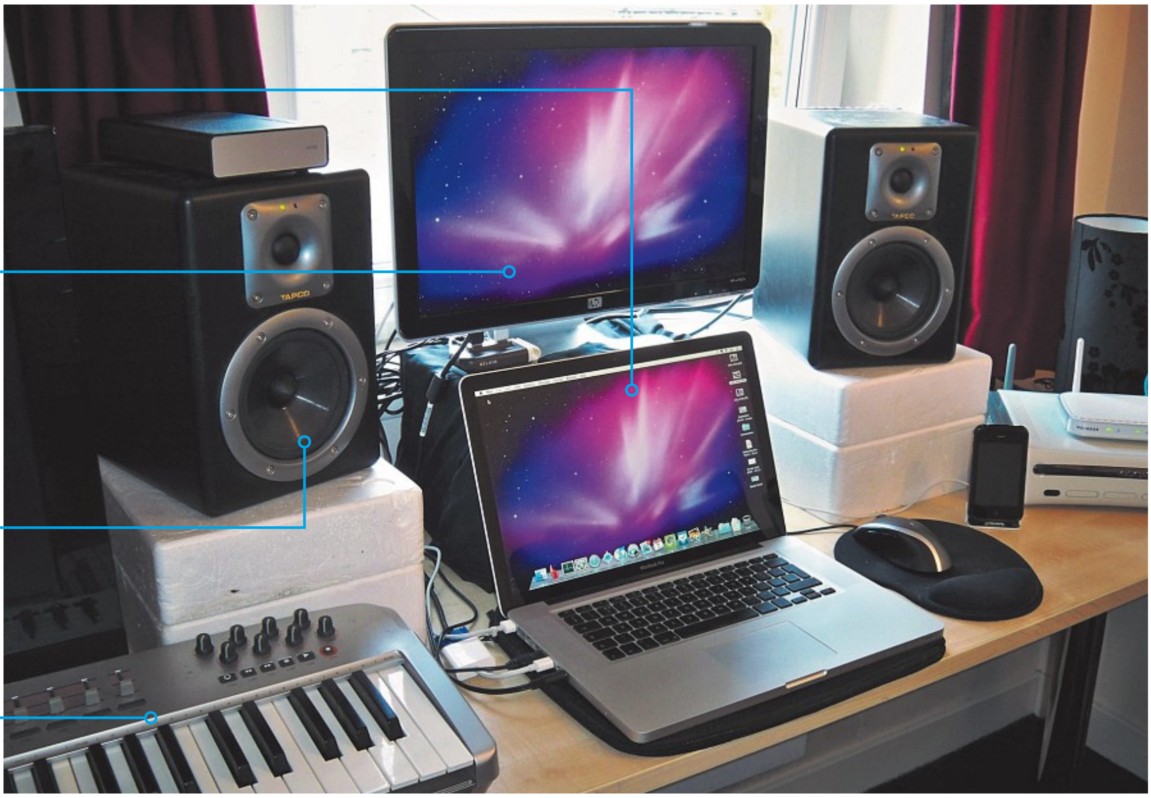
Want to share your Mac setup with us? Send a photo of your kit to **christopher.phin@futurenet.com**

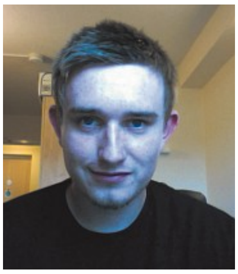
MacBook Pro 15-inch 2.53GHz
The heart of the setup is this portable powerhouse with a stellar screen.

HP Pavilion w1907v
This HP monitor does a good job of reflecting the MacBook's style.

Tapco S•5 Active Studio Monitors
Music makers don't just need speakers; they need proper studio monitors.

M-Audio Oxygen 49
This is a great keyboard – in fact, *MacFormat*'s art editor, Alex, has just picked one up for his band, Balustrade.





>> PROFILE

Name: Matthew Bostock
Occupation: Student
Been using a Mac for: A year and a half
Favourite hardware: MacBook Pro unibody
Favourite software: 1Password

With the Apple Mac's traditional strength in education and music-making, it should come as absolutely no surprise that Matthew, a music student, loves his Mac.

"I started using Macs around September 2008 as part of my university music course. And I loved using them so much that by December I had my Dad digging around for spare change to put towards my own Mac for Christmas. The thing that got my attention straight away was the Mac's consistency and reliability. On other OS platforms you could start up one day and wait 30 seconds to hit the Desktop, on other days maybe three minutes. With the Mac its straight down the line.

"I have been using PCs for years now, way before I was introduced to the Mac. As a kid they're good enough to suit your needs, but as you grow up and become more involved in organising information you need an OS that accommodates different things. The PC has a lot of great software, but it all just seems so disjointed from the operating system, and this hampers my workflow a great deal.

> *"The thing that got my attention straight away was the Mac's total consistency and reliability..."*

"I use my Mac for making music; it's an integral part of my university degree. I use *Logic 8* with various AUs, plus *Cubase 4*. Due to the nature of making music I use a lot of peripheral gear, such as sound cards, MIDI controllers and the like. The plug-and-play/no driver deal with Mac really is insanely good, plus it saves me a lot of time. As my university has various Mac suites it's easy to throw a *Logic* project onto a USB stick and finish working on it there – without having to worry about compatibility issues."

Finally, though, Matthew leaves us with a cautionary tale; "Not too long ago my eBay account got phished while I was using one of my friend's PCs. Nothing like that had happened to me before, and considering I had all my bank details on there ready for use, it was quite scary. I decided to become more security-conscious when going online, and came to the conclusion that *1Password*, which you can get from www.agilewebsolutions.com, offers all the protection I need and then some. It houses all my passwords, and can log me into a given site with a single click!" ●

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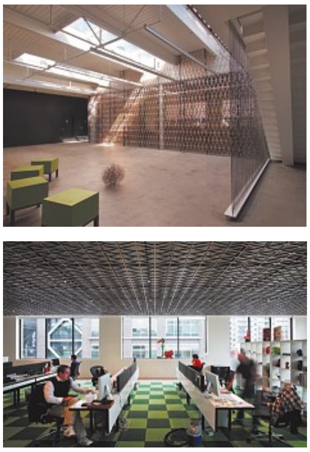

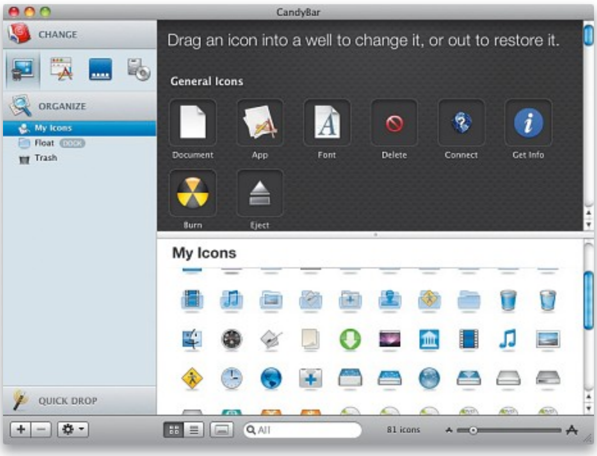

Drag an icon into a well to change it, or out to restore it.

Played in Britain
Played at the Pub

We use our Macs for Creating software

LEFT: Panic's offices in Portland, Oregon represent the simplicity and style so perfectly executed by the company themselves.

MIDDLE: With the CandyBar app developed by Panic you can customise and organise your icons. Cabel on Panic's future: "I want to keep pushing the web, interfaces, and software concepts, to keep making people say 'wow'."

ABOVE: Steven on Mac development: "Cocoa is a first-class platform for developers. The reason Mac software's so good is because we stand on the shoulders of giants."

Craig Grannell talks to Panic founders Cabel Sasser and Steven Frank

>>PROFILE

Name: Cabel Sasser and Steven Frank
Location: Portland, Oregon, USA
Occupation: Software developers
System(s): All sorts of Macs
Web: www.panic.com

MacFormat: What do you use Macs for?
Cabel Sasser: We make Mac software, to enable other people to do great things with their Macs!

MF: What software do you use?
Steven Frank: Apple's *Developer Tools* for writing apps, *Photoshop* for design work and mock-ups, and our own *Transmit* and *Coda* to maintain our website.

MF: Why do you use Macs rather than PCs?
CS: We came from the Amiga world, which is probably pretty normal in the UK, but freakishly outlandish in the USA. When the Amiga died, I had two choices, and when you've been living a counter-culture computing existence, you don't go PC.
SF: Before the Amiga, the Apple II was a huge part of my young life, so there's history there. I got my first Mac in about 1996.
CS: One final, embarrassing note. Steve and I met at an Amiga Users Group in a library when we were teenagers, having chatted on a BBS. Don't print that, OK?

MF: What are Panic's greatest achievements?
CS: We love making software, and the internet enabled us to do so as two guys in an apartment. I'm proud of our five Apple Design Awards and trends we've set, but also that in ten years we've never lost an employee.

MF: You turned down Apple, who wanted your *Audion* app as the basis for *iTunes*. Any regrets?
SF: It was an honour, but our independence is more valuable.
CS: It's something I'll always wonder about, but I can't imagine having a more satisfying work life than we have now, making things from start to finish, with total control – and the opportunity to print T-shirts on the side if we feel like it. That said, we never talked to Apple about money. Let's keep it that way, or there won't be enough pillows in the world to absorb my bitter tears.

MF: The Apple genie offers you a single wish – what is it?
CS: An Apple car. Also, I bet Steve says something about the Newton.
SF: Nah, I've got to move on. How about an official way to install iPhone apps without the App Store? Probably as likely as the car, eh? ●

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- ✓ Graphical web stats

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Gadgets

The hottest kit, coming soon.
Here's what Apple is up against

◀ Point Grey USB 3.0 Video Camera

£TBA www.ptgrey.com

What is it? It's the world's first SuperSpeed USB-enabled digital video camera. Next-generation USB 3.0 connectivity enables it to stream uncompressed high-definition 1080p video at 60 frames per second. That's pretty darn fast!

When's it due? Still currently at the demo stage, so not soon.

Why are we excited? The extra detail will improve applications like face recognition.

▶ Seagate Barracuda XT 2TB

£250 www.seagate.com

What is it? According to Seagate, it's the world's fastest, largest-capacity mainstream desktop hard drive. A 3.5-inch SATA drive with a 2TB capacity (four 500GB platters), it has 64MB cache and spins at 7200RPM. It offers third-generation SATA speeds of up to 6Gb/s.

When's it due? It's out now.

Why are we excited? Running at 6Gb per second, it's the fastest drive on the market.

▲ Datacolor Spyder3Studio SR

€449 (about £415)

www.datacolor.eu

What is it? Sold as a complete calibration system for photographers, it covers the entire digital workflow. SpyderCube ensures a proper light and colour balance in your camera images, Spyder3Elite (shown here) helps calibrate your displays, and Spyder3Print SR gives quick custom ICC printer profiles.

When's it due? Out now.

Why are we excited? It's great to get an entire calibration system in one posh flight case. It's not cheap, but it's a boon for photography professionals or even keen hobbyists.

PURE Sensia

£250 www.touchmyradio.com

What is it? The PURE Sensia offers a lot more than just radio. Taking its lead from the iPhone, it has a 5.7-inch 640x480 colour touchscreen, from which you can access custom PURE apps such as weather, news, Picasa, Facebook or Twitter. It also has internet streaming broadcasts, an FM tuner and receives DAB/DAB+ stations.

When's it due? It will be with us in time for Christmas.

Why are we excited? It's like having *Dashboard* widgets on your radio. Apart from the inherent coolness of social networking from your music system, a decent-sized touchscreen should also make it easier to navigate internet radio stations.

All Stations
1Xtra
6 Music
Absolute Classic...
Absolute Radio
Absolute Xtreme
BBC 7
BBC Asian Network
BBC Radio 1
The DJ on air is...
CHRISTIAN O'CONNELL
with The Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show
absoluteradio.co.uk/breakfast
Absolute Radio
Now playing...
The Christian O'Connell Breakfast Show
12:45
29/06/2009
AM
Alarms
Source
Volume
Settings
Apps
Power
Signal
PURE
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PURE

Fitbit

$99 (UK price TBA)

www.fitbit.com

What is it? It's the fun way to get fit. Fitbit contains a 3D motion sensor like the one found in the Nintendo Wii, tracking your motion in three dimensions and converting it into useful information about your day-to-day activities, which you can upload onto your Mac. Keep a track of calories burned, steps taken, distance travelled and even sleep quality.

When's it due? Out now in the States, coming soon everywhere else.

Why are we excited? Given the amount of time we spend in front of our Macs, a little exercise would go a long way. Fitbit could well be the answer.

Samsung SCH-W880 AMOLED 12M Camera Phone

£TBA (and depends on contract)

www.samsung.com/uk

What is it? It's a phone, with a built-in camera. Or is it a camera with a built-in phone?

When's it due? Out now in Korea, coming soon everywhere else.

Why are we excited? At last, a phone with a decent camera! This one boasts a 3x optical zoom, 12 megapixels, 720p video recording, dedicated camera controls and an 800x480 3.3-inch AMOLED touchscreen display. Maybe it will inspire Apple!

Anycall
SAMSUNG
SAMSUNG LENS
3X ZOOM
12 MEGA PIXELS

Feedback

>> CONTACT US
Whatever your Mac-related cares, concerns or calamities are, let us know about them by contacting us on the following email address:
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Let us know what you think about your Mac, MacFormat and everything Apple

Snow Leopard: the good

I have just upgraded my 24-inch iMac to Snow Leopard and am delighted with the improvement in performance. It has lived up to my expectations and beyond; the bonus being that since I upgraded, my copy of *Illustrator CS2* that failed under the last OS upgrade, now works again. I was considering splashing out on the latest version but Snow Leopard has saved me the expense, thus paying for itself many times over.

I am a huge Mac fan, who started out with a Classic, and have been reading *MacFormat* since the first issue. Keep up the good work, presenting balanced and valuable info to the Mac community.

Paul U Cotton

MacFormat replies: Thanks Paul, you've uncovered an unexpected benefit of upgrading to Snow Leopard there.

Snow Leopard: the bad

In your comprehensive coverage of Snow Leopard in issue 214 you gloss over a serious issue relating to printer support. 'Mac OS X,' you say, 'has always been a good citizen when it comes to supporting a large number of printers.' Well, up to a point!

I use an iMac and an HP Photosmart C7280 all-in-one. Since installing Snow Leopard the scanning function has been ridiculously slow – infinitely slower than under 10.5. In the course of the past week I've had endless conversations with both HP and Apple technical support, and been variously advised to uninstall all HP software packages, to verify and repair **Disk Permissions**, to install HP's customised *Full-Feature* software, to perform a **Semi-Full Reset** on the All-in-One and much else besides.

Snow Leopard has its detractors as well as its admirers...

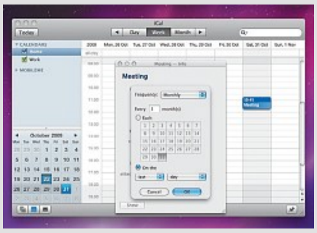
Mac OS X Snow Leopard
MacBook Pro

None of this made the least difference – **Image Capture** was still taking 5 minutes to scan an A4 sheet of text. And it became clear, from logging on to Apple Discussions, that many other Mac users were having similar difficulties.

Finally, I was lucky enough to be put through to an Apple technical advisor in Athens. I had barely begun my tale of woe before he politely interrupted me. 'Sir,' he said, 'you are wasting your time. We know there are issues, and we

>> STAR LETTER / Hidden feature

I like to use my calendar to record when regular payments go in and out of my bank account. However, I get paid on the last day of the month so was a bit disappointed when I switched to a Mac last year and found that *iCal* didn't allow me to enter repeating events for the last day of the month when I get paid. Other than this niggle, I love my Mac. Having recently upgraded to Snow Leopard I was really pleased to note that Apple have sneaked



this enhancement into *iCal* without mentioning it. Maybe this is a feature that other readers would appreciate? Well done Apple, but why keep it a secret?

Terry Weatherill

MacFormat replies: Snow Leopard includes an incredible amount of these tiny little enhancements (see this month's Twitter Talk for more!).

If any of our readers would like to follow Terry's useful tip in *iCal* then select the event you want to repeat and hit ⌘+I, alternatively you can right-click and select Get Info. Next to the repeat drop-down choose custom, then select Monthly for the Frequency and tick On the and last and day. Done!

STAR LETTER

elgato
EyeTV hybrid

Email all your letters to us at **macformat@futurenet.com** If yours gets picked as the MacFormat Star Letter, you'll be sent a fantastic EyeTV Hybrid. It comes with analog and digital tuners, so you can use it to put TV on your Mac wherever you are in the country!

are working with HP and other printer manufacturers to fix them. You may have to wait till November – possibly until we issue 10.6.2.'

Question: why couldn't Apple and HP have briefed all their technical support teams to be so frank from the word go? It would have saved everybody a great deal of time.

Ian McIntyre

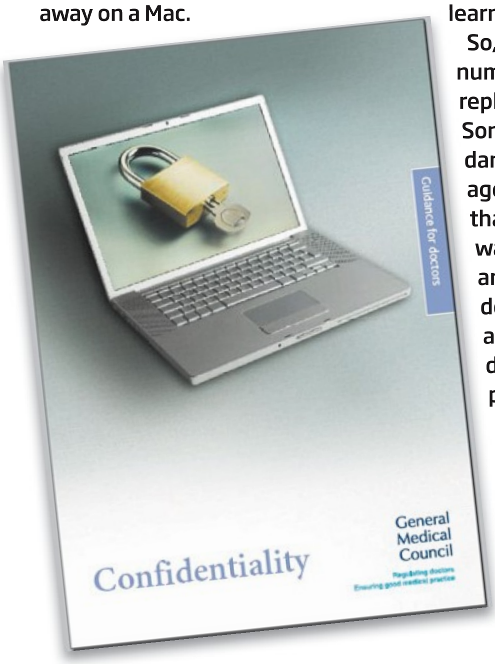
MacFormat replies: Thanks for bringing this to light, Ian. If it's any consolation, you're not alone, we've received many complaints regarding printers and scanners working inconsistently under Snow Leopard. Whenever a new operating system gets released, there are always going to be some compatibility issues considering the vast numbers of peripherals in the wild that are used with Mac OS X. We'd agree with you that third-party vendors could do a lot more than they already do to make the technical support pages on their websites clear about what currently works with what, and when new drivers will be released.

Mac spotting

Your feature on spotting Macs each month should be changed to spotting PCs! Everywhere I look I see Macs and very rarely PCs. On Comedy Central, the nightly dose of *Sex and the City* shows Carrie Bradshaw typing away on a Mac. A recent series showed scientists in New Guinea downloading onto their Macs, plus we get plenty of coverage from Stephen Fry.

I thought you might be interested to know that the recent guidelines from the General Medical Council on confidentiality has on its front page – guess what – a Mac!

Stuart Walton



Macs are appearing everywhere in the media these days.

MacFormat replies: Of course, we'd agree that the best thing to do to secure the data on your laptop is, of course, get a Mac!

Taking your advice

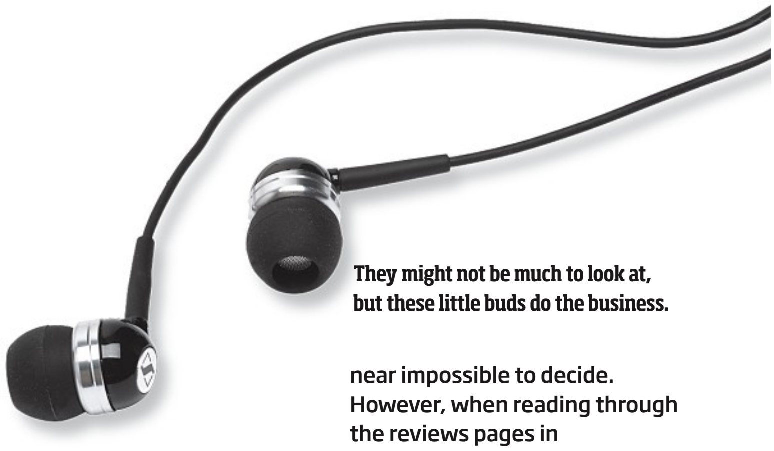
There are times when you just know you should listen to people. It's all about taking advice, trusting that advice and learning from it.

So, there I am, cynic number one, wanting to replace my ageing in-ear Sony headphones dangling from my equally ageing iPod (well, not that aged really but wanting to replace it anyway) and unable to decide what to get as an alternative. All the different makes, prices, variable reviews – some saying brilliant, others contradicting, make it near impossible to decide. However, when reading through the reviews pages in *MacFormat*, I saw a 5-star review for a pair of Sennheiser CX 300 II in-ear cans. I decided that, given my inability to make up my own mind, I would suppress the cynical side of my brain and go by your excellent recommendation!

Now, it's like listening to my music collection all over again – and for only a tenner more than I paid for the Sony set a year ago. Spot-on review and I feel it's money wisely spent.

I am still looking for a new iPod in the near future as well as thinking of changing my MacBook. I think I can guess whose advice I will definitely be taking on those choices, then.

Phillip Davis



They might not be much to look at, but these little buds do the business.

MacFormat replies: We're glad to be of service, Phillip! We're constantly amazed by how many iPod and iPhone owners never venture beyond Apple's iconic white ear buds supplied with their new iPod or iPhone, which may look cute, but leave a lot to be desired when it comes to the quality of the sound.

Turn it off

I don't want to sound churlish, because Christopher Brennan's column in issue 214 was quite interesting and amusing, but why when taking his MacBook on a long journey did he not turn it off rather than leaving it in sleep mode? He would not have had any problems, if so. He should still, of course, have taken his charger lead with him, but at least he would have arrived with a fully working

Twitter @#! talk

From the Twittersphere

We asked:

What's your favourite hidden feature of Snow Leopard?

It's not graphics or an app for me but the reduced boot and shutdown time. Splendid.
@dawoo

For me, it has to be automator services – this helps you create your own OS functionality.
@justinmoors

Selecting windows when in Exposé by typing just a few letters is quite handy and avoids mousing.
@andyuk71

The little fade-out on the icon of a removable drive as it's ejected is a nice touch!
@harryjatkins

Snow Leopard's built-in NTFS support.
@COD_Legend

I find that the 'Put Back' feature when deleting a file, is really useful.
@McKellier

When using Exposé and have lots of Safari windows open, there's a blue border around the windows.
@samdownie

When app switching, hit "1" to view Exposé for that app. You can then cycle through the apps in that Exposé mode, pressing tab.
@dannygreg

You can find out what we're up to each month by following the team at Twitter.com/MacFormat

laptop. Would the delay waiting for it to switch on (so much quicker than Windoze machines anyway) have been so terrible?

Rex Palmer

MacFormat replies: Well, it wouldn't have provided him with material for his excellent column either, but we take your point.

PDF issues

First, I must say that it's great to see the PDF versions of *MacFormat* online!

I've been looking for these for quite a while now, due to the fact I am overseas and want to eliminate the clutter of old magazines. I have taken out a subscription based on the availability of these.

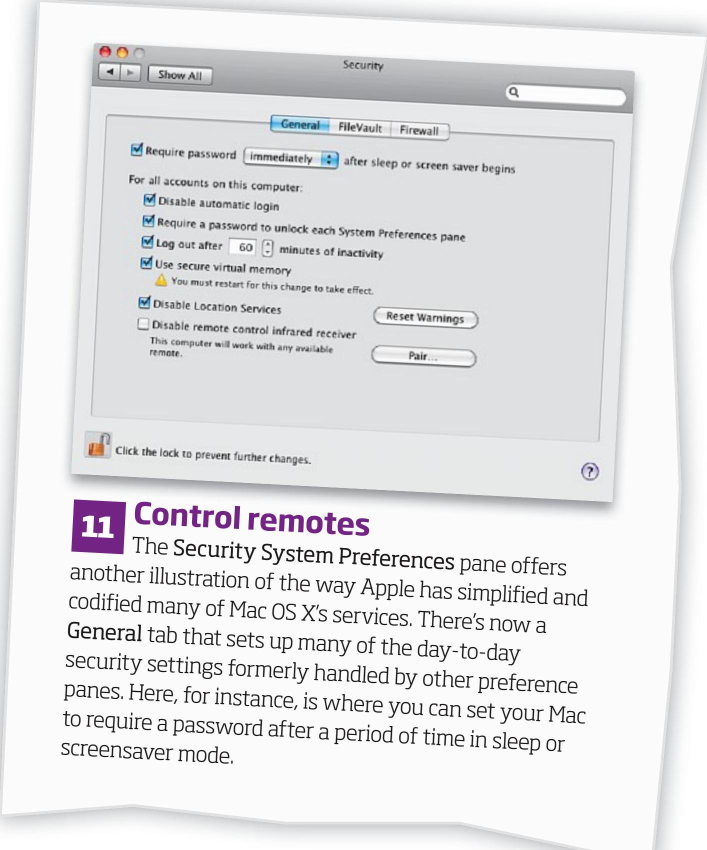
It would be great if you could include the reviews pages in the archive as well as the articles – I have gone back to a few reviews in old magazines, so it would be nice to be able to have a "complete" pdf version.

Chrisf (from the forum)

MacFormat replies: Thanks for your comments, Chris. All subscribers have to do is enter their subscriber number and surname at **www.macformat.co.uk** to access the PDF archive in the Subscriber area.

The reason we don't put the PDFs of our reviews online is that they are all available at **www.techradar.com**. However, going forward, we're thinking about including them by default as PDFs as well. Watch this space.

We've also received enquiries from readers asking if it is possible to only subscribe to the PDF archive and not receive the print magazine; this is something we're considering. We'd welcome all feedback from our readers about this idea, so please do let us know your thoughts by sending us an email on **macformat@futurenet.com**.



☑ Require password immediately after sleep or screen saver begins

For all accounts on this computer:

☑ Disable automatic login

☑ Require a password to unlock each System Preferences pane

☑ Log out after 60 minutes of inactivity

☑ Use secure virtual memory

You must restart for this change to take effect.

☑ Disable Location Services

☐ Disable remote control infrared receiver

This computer will work with any available remote.

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

11 Control remotes

The **Security System Preferences** pane offers another illustration of the way Apple has simplified and codified many of Mac OS X's services. There's now a **General** tab that sets up many of the day-to-day security settings formerly handled by other preference panes. Here, for instance, is where you can set your Mac to require a password after a period of time in sleep or screensaver mode.

I think that you'll find...

Last issue, I couldn't help but notice that Steps 9 and 11 on page 38 of your otherwise excellent guide to the new OS, 'Your first steps with Snow Leopard', were identical!

Mark Smith

MacFormat replies: You've got us bang to rights here Mark, so please accept our profuse apologies. Subscribers will be glad to hear that we've corrected the PDF that's available for download from the Subscriber area of our website at **www.macformat.co.uk**, but, for now, see above for the missing text. ●

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MacFormat investigates

Sat nav on the iPhone

There are five major apps that promise to turn your iPhone into a sat nav. But do they work, and which is best? **Christopher Phin** investigates

When it was announced that the iPhone 3G had a proper GPS chip inside it (the original could only work out its location very roughly by looking at which cell phone masts were nearby), we all got very excited at the prospect of using the iPhone as a turn-by-turn satellite navigation system. The idea that you could jump in your car, slot the iPhone into a cradle, and have it direct you to your destination, guided by billions of dollars of satellite infrastructure, was beguiling. Especially since even the cheapest standalone sat nav costs more than £100...

The reality, sadly, turned out to be less utopian. The built-in Google-powered *Maps* app is undoubtedly fantastic, but while it lets you plan journeys by car, foot or public transport, it doesn't provide turn-by-turn directions; that is to say, it doesn't follow you as you drive and tell you when to make your turns. No matter, you might think, I'll just buy an app from, say, TomTom that does do turn-by-turn. Not so fast; it's only with the release of iPhone OS 3.0 that Apple has actually allowed the development of third-party apps that offer such detailed directions.

Since 3.0 hit, though, we've been treated to a slew of apps from developers big and small. We wanted to find out how good they were, but because they all have one thing in common, that is the experience of using the iPhone itself as the sat-nav hardware, we decided to use a slightly different approach to our normal product group tests. So while you'll »

BRISTOL
BATH

Chris Phin puts his iPhone to the test, in the car and on the road, in a GPS challenge around Bath city centre.

Photography by Joby Sessions

LEFT: The EasyPort window sucker, part of the TomTom car kit.

RIGHT: Mounting the iPhone above the dash is best for reception.

find our formal reviews of all the sat-nav apps, it's worth being aware of how the iPhone in general performs as a sat-nav device. There are, you see, significant issues.

The first is that you need to position your iPhone in your car comfortably and in a safe position, so you can actually see it. The problem is that there are relatively few iPhone car mounts available, and those that we've tried are typically ungainly and inelegant. Solutions such as the otherwise excellent Belkin TuneBase FM with Hands-Free, reviewed in issue 213, are fine, but because they plug into the lighter socket, it's unlikely to enable the screen to sit in a position that's safe to use when driving.

Voice prompts may be the answer, but sadly the iPhone's built-in speaker is too weedy to be used comfortably; it's fine for hands-free calling at your desk, but at the volumes necessary for the spoken instructions to be heard above the noise of the engine and the tyres on the road, the audio can get unpleasantly distorted.

The iPhone also really needs a constant supply of power for all but the shortest of journeys; the big, backlit screen itself is pretty power-hungry – you don't often keep it on continuously, but you'd notice significant battery drain if you did this and nothing else. And, of course, it takes a lot of power to drive the GPS circuitry that's keeping a lock on the satellites. Sure, standalone sat navs need this too, but you don't need your sat nav to be able to make calls and compose emails when you arrive at your destination.

> *"It's worth being aware of how the iPhone in general performs as a sat-nav device. There are, you see, some significant issues"*

Happily, these problems can be easily solved, albeit at a price. The reception-boosting TomTom Car Kit may cost an eye-watering £99.95, but for our money it's an essential purchase. The locking window-sucker, which is the same EasyPort device used in the current crop of TomTom sat navs, is smart and reliable, and enables you to place the iPhone exactly where you want it. It lets the whole thing pivot through 360 degrees, so you can flip your iPhone easily into portrait or landscape orientation. (This has the bonus of allowing the angled power cable to trail the correct way; usually, right-hand drive cars have to double back this cable.)

It also has a built-in speaker; though music sounds no more than workmanlike, spoken sat-nav prompts have plenty of volume. You can use it for hands-free calling too – it includes a microphone, and does a decent job.

The big problem is the price. Given that you're going to have to add a sat-nav app as well, »

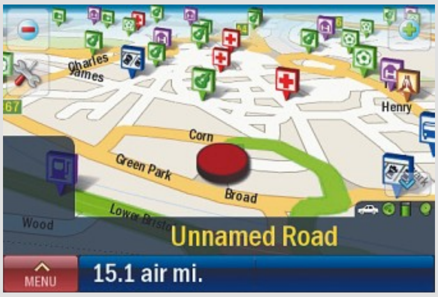
» HOW WE TESTED...

On the road, in the car

As well as testing the five apps here over the weeks that they've been available, we set ourselves a challenge. We defined five different waypoints around the city of Bath, beginning at Royal High School. Then we asked the system to find a local petrol station as a point of interest (POI), which they all did. Next, we wanted to test postcode look-up, so we entered the postcode of Prior Park, a local landmark; here, some stumbled through, not supporting full postcode look-up.

Then it was off to the train station; the *TomTom* and *Sygic* apps tried to take us down a road closed except for access. From the station, we tried an address in our contacts; some failed to parse it, and some tried to route us via a road that's closed to traffic between 10am and 6pm.

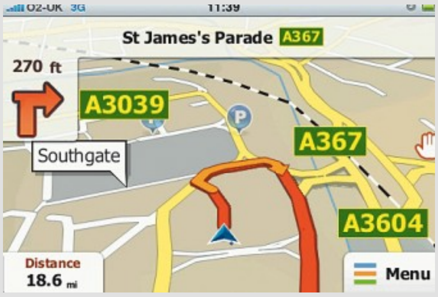
Results are on page 28. Note: it would be wrong to extrapolate performance for other locations based on this sample.



CoPilot Live UK & Ireland

★★★★☆ £26

Frankly, we're impressed. At half the price of bigger names, you'd be forgiven for thinking that it had fewer features. In fact, this was one of our favourites. The basic route-finding functionality worked great, though it did try to take us up a road that was closed to cars at the time. We liked how, at the end of a journey, a dialog asked us if we wanted to add another destination, and that it ducked background audio during spoken instructions. The user interface is gaudy, but well engineered to save on-screen clutter. A very respectable app.



iGO My Way 2009 – Western Europe Edition

★½☆☆☆ £53

This app was a real disappointment, but since it includes maps for Western Europe, it's actually good value. It's not just that the interface is clumsy, it also fails in some pretty basic tasks; you can't navigate to contacts stored on your iPhone – though this is coming in the next free update – and, more worryingly, you can't enter postcodes at all. Though tested in the same circumstances as the others, it sometimes lost its lock. Instructions were often confusing, and we had to take the iPhone out of our Car Kit to relaunch the app.

GEO-TECH / How sat-nav maps are made

Regardless of how good the interface and other features of a sat-nav app are, it relies, ultimately, on the map data at its heart. But who gathers this information, and how?

There are two main organisations that provide mapping for these systems: Dutch company Tele Atlas, and the American Navteq, owned by TomTom and Nokia respectively.

NEAR RIGHT: Dan Childs provides the human touch when mapping the GPS data on the move.

FAR RIGHT: Dan's mapping vehicle is fitted with large-capacity hard drives and video cameras.

On the road

TechRadar.com, the sister site to MacFormat.co.uk, hitched a ride with Dan Childs, who runs Navteq's mapping operation in the West of England. The data-gathering car is impressive, even if it is a Renault Scenic. This is a serious bit of kit; it takes 10 minutes to reboot if you stall it!

"That's why we have an automatic car; stalling cars is not good in this job!" laughs Dan. "We build up a level of knowledge of where things are happening. We have different tools for different jobs," he explains. "This car is fitted with an IMU (Inertial Measurement Unit) and differential GPS [which works with the movement of the wheels]."

Much like Google's mapping vehicles, Navteq's car is equipped with multi-view video cameras, the main purpose of which, says Dan, is to be able to check back on imagery if someone says that there's a mapping error. "Our archived projects can be quite useful, rather than driving 200 miles [to check out a problem]."

The kit in the back is complemented by a PC display in the dashboard. The images and data are continuously sent to a server in the boot, but it can all be viewed in real-time on the screen.

Filled to capacity

Storage is provided by 500GB hard drives, which are removed to be processed when Dan returns to his base. "As we're driving, it puts it straight onto there and then we put it in our tower PC in the office. You build up a lot of information very quickly – an average day is 30-40GB."

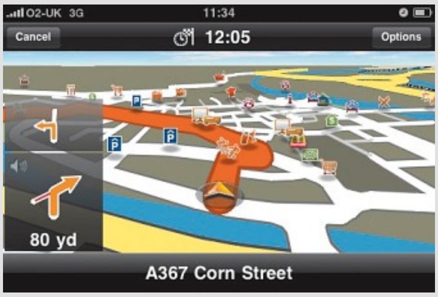
But how quickly do new developments appear on the maps?

"We don't jump at everything we receive straight away," says Dan. "Something like the M6 toll road or Terminal 5 will be on from the day it's open. "If it's a new housing estate, it will be done within the next cycle [Navteq provides four releases a year]. We usually wait until we've got enough stuff to make a day of it."

Dan showed us how Navteq maps new streets by removing a small part of Bath from his test map and re-doing it. The map itself is coded back at the office from the information collected on the road. As the car is driven, Dan sits in the passenger seat, recording the street pattern along with any navigational issues, such as restrictive roadwidths.

Local authorities are a good source of information regarding changes to street layouts, directions and the like, while the Highway Agency and the AA inform them of major schemes. Navteq also overlays its own postcode information with that of Royal Mail's, so it can easily identify non-mapped locations.

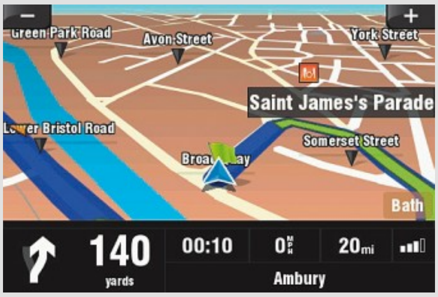
Sure, sat navs aren't perfect, but with so many people working behind the scenes to keep maps up to date, they're certainly pretty damned good.



Navigon Mobile Navigator British Isles

★★★★☆ £53

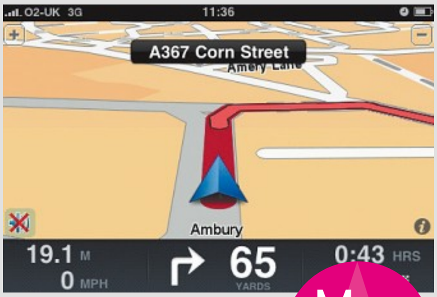
The first GPS app to launch remains one of the best. The spoken and visual instructions are clear and helpful, and it gently ducks background music to let the voice prompts be clearly heard. A text-to-speech engine effectively reads out road names. There's one big problem, though; it doesn't do full postcode searches, so you can't rely on inputting postcodes to get you to your destinations. Despite this, however, it made the best decisions about how to route us through Bath during our challenge (see overleaf).



Sygic Mobile Maps UK & Ireland

★★★½☆ £30

The strong, graphic interface of the *Sygic* app is more than just cosmetic – it's easy to follow the clear on-screen map. It's just a shame that the text in the menu systems – and indeed even in the information bar at the bottom of the screen – is a little on the small side, and has relatively poor legibility. Happily, it does full postcode searching and contacts look-up, though it can struggle to parse non-standard addresses. It made one bad decision in our routing challenge, but it also picked a good route that no other app picked for one leg.



TomTom UK & Ireland

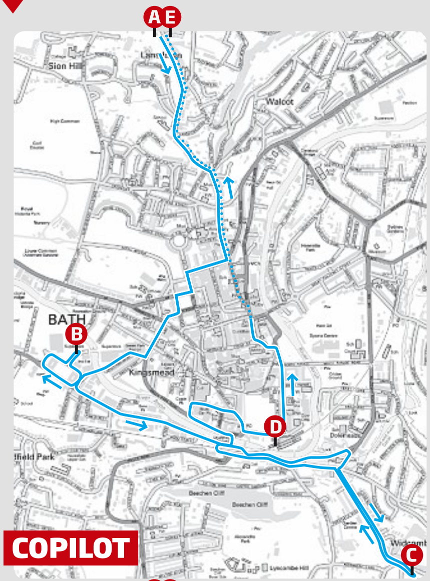
Mac FORMAT Winner!

★★★★☆ £60

By far the most polished of the apps here, *TomTom*'s system feels like the app Apple itself would make. Menus are very clear, data is easy to enter – it supports copy and paste – and the crisp, reserved on-screen graphics are a joy. It is, however, the most expensive app here and, though it's capable of some brilliant insights about which route to take – thanks, we assume, to its IQ Routes tech that knows at what time of the day certain roads are busy – it did make a couple of bad mistakes in our route challenge (see overleaf).

No matter how efficient your GPS system, there's bound to be the occasional error.

TRAVERSING BATH / Seeking the ultimate sat nav



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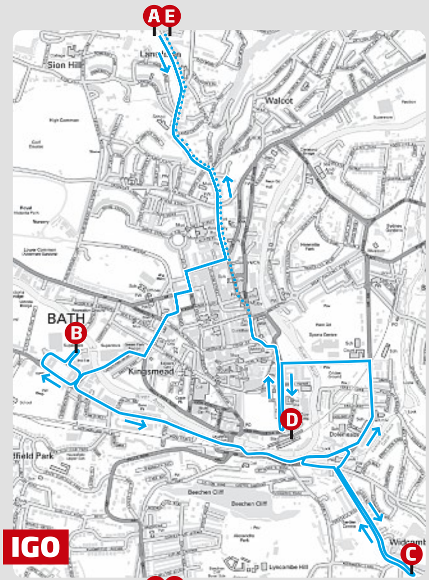

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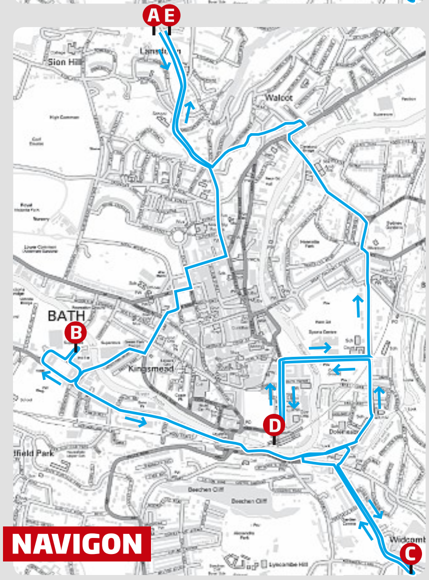

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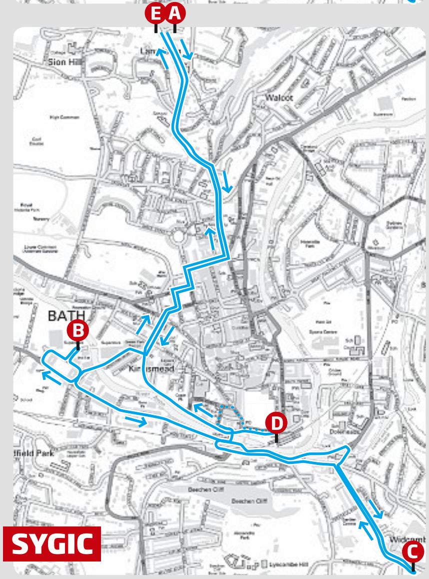

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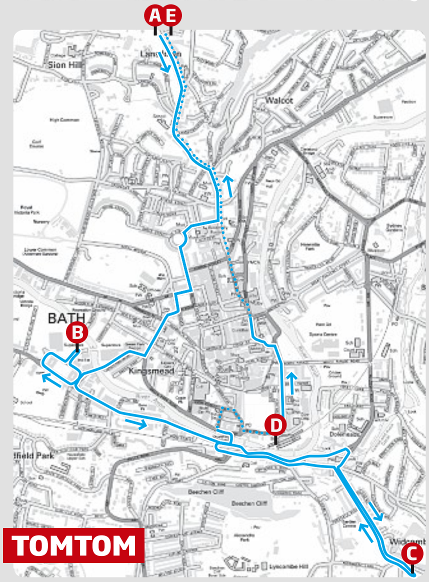


TOMTOM

THE CHALLENGE

We expected that all the apps would route us in roughly the same way, but boy were we wrong! Following the route of our real-world challenge (for details, see page 26) from points A to E.

Where they tried to route us in a way that was actually prohibited, we've shown the intended route, but used a dotted line – proof that you shouldn't blindly trust any sat nav. Based on the route selection alone, *Navigon* is the clear winner, putting in a perfect performance, with *Sygic* a close second.

KEY

━━━━ Route taken

········ Route not allowed

Ordnance Survey mapping © Crown copyright. Media 117-09

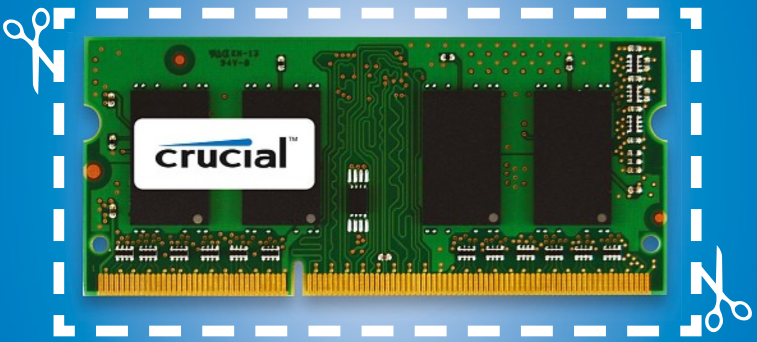
it's an expensive proposition; especially given that a TomTom One Classic GPS is £84.99.

Even then, some problems remain. With a few background exceptions, the iPhone can only run one thing at a time, so if you want to do anything else, you have to quit your sat-nav app. Of course, you shouldn't be mucking about with email while doing 70 on the motorway, but it's nevertheless irritating that an incoming call causes your navigation to quit. (You can always relaunch it while talking – calls are one of the exceptions that can run in the background – but it's still imperfect.) Happily, all the apps lock on quickly on relaunch, and you can still control the iPod with Voice Control or clicks on a remote.

Finally, though the iPhone's screen seems generous in your hand, it just seems a little on the dinky side in the interior of a car, and we'd be happier if the screen was just a little brighter. And if all this sounds overly negative, it's just because we want you to be aware of the drawbacks. The experience of using your iPhone as a sat nav, especially if you invest in the TomTom car kit, is generally excellent, and anything that means we have fewer individual devices cluttering up our lives gets our vote. It's great to arrive at your destination with a fully charged battery, and in any case, the ability, for example, to navigate to contacts already synced to your device rather than laboriously entering them by hand is most welcome.

> *"The experience of using your iPhone as a sat nav, especially if you invest in the TomTom car kit, is generally excellent"*

What's more, this is just the beginning. None of the apps here really take advantage of the iPhone's persistent data connection, or at least not yet. We're looking forward to competition driving innovation, with live traffic info, fuel prices, and even local advertising promotions. iPhone OS 3.0's in-app purchasing should lead to useful add-on services and features, and the pace of iPhone development means we shouldn't have to wait too long. ●



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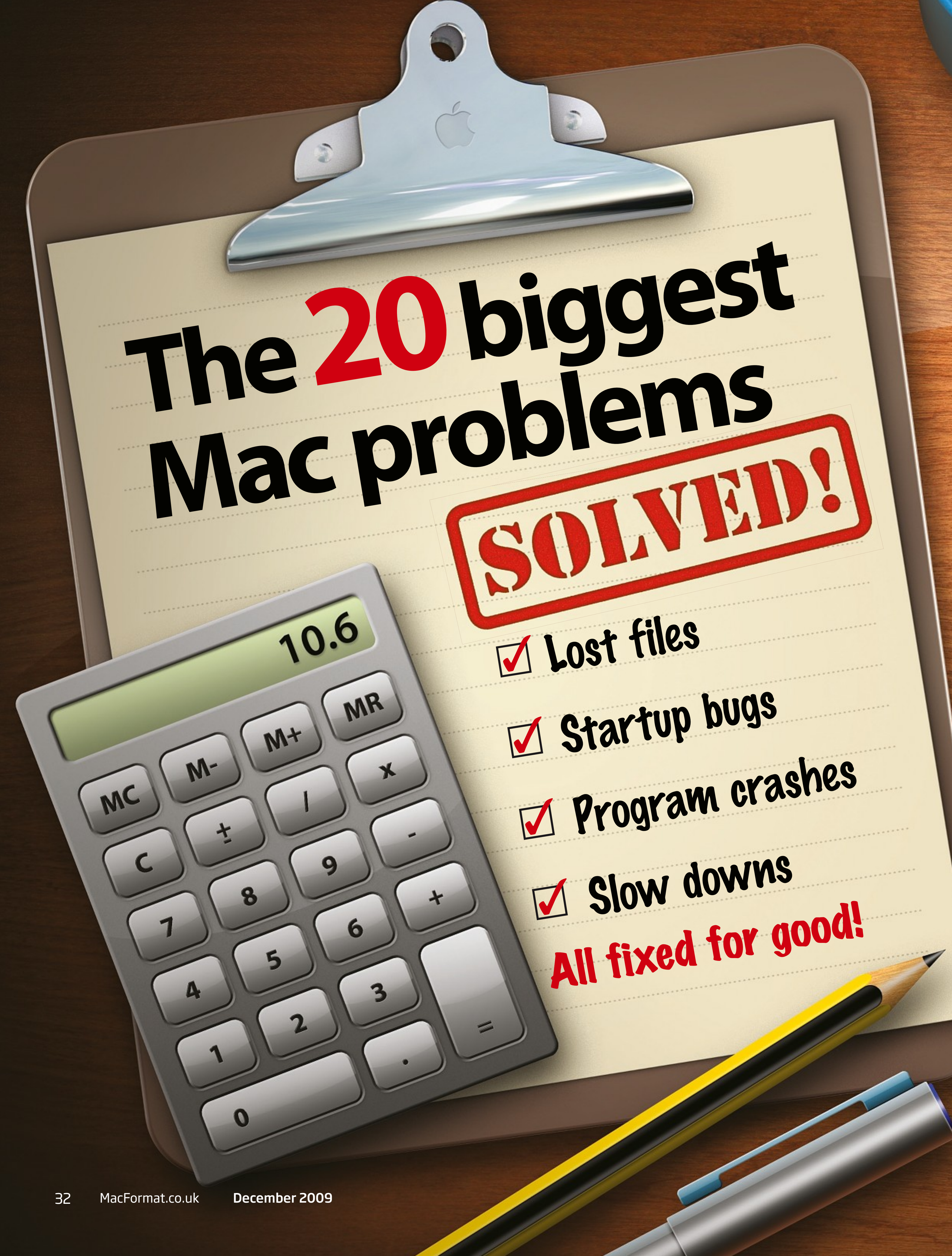


The 20 biggest Mac problems SOLVED!

☑ Lost files

☑ Startup bugs

☑ Program crashes

☑ Slow downs

All fixed for good!

Don't give up on your ailing Mac... **Adam Banks** shows just how easy it is to get your system back up and running

The trouble with Macs is that they lull you into a false sense of security. If you spend your day using PCs, dealing with infuriating glitches becomes second nature. But Apple has made things so straightforward that you get used to stuff just working. When it doesn't, it comes as a nasty shock.

It's quite hard to identify the most common Mac problems, because most problems aren't all that common. They can range from minor annoyances that we'll all see once in a while, like applications slowing down or files behaving oddly, to the almost mythical calamities that many users will never encounter, like disk failures and kernel panics. Sometimes it may seem obvious where to look for the solution; other times, you won't have a clue.

Fortunately, the brick walls you may occasionally run up against will generally turn out, on closer inspection, to be mere ha-has in the garden of Mac. So next time you find yourself staring at the screen with a mounting sense of horror, take a deep breath and pull out this article. We'll take you calmly through the steps you should follow to resolve the issue.

Of course, we can't always promise to help when something really serious has gone wrong – but 99 times out of a 100, it hasn't. Here's how to deal with those ones. »

» ON THE DISC
Find many featured apps on your disc

Illustration by MagicTorch

Everyday annoyances

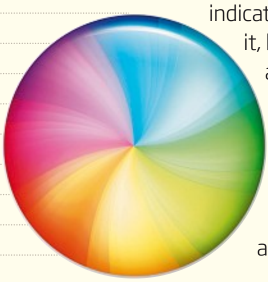
Here are some of the daily hiccups you're most likely to suffer

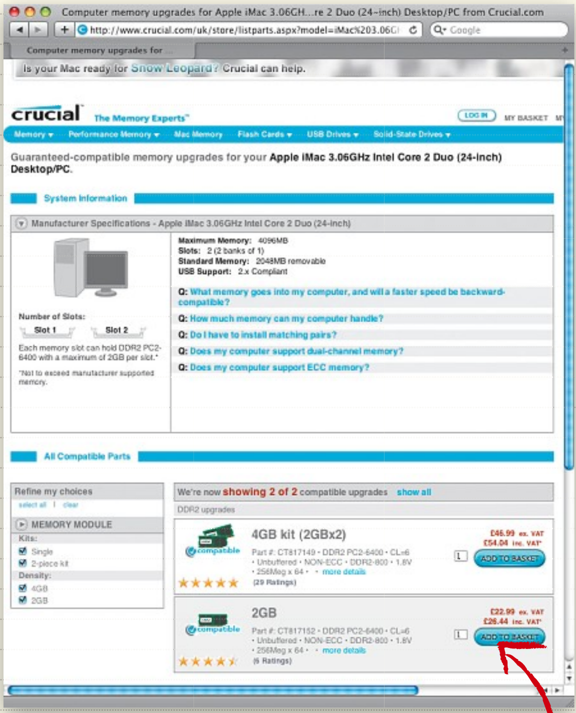
#1 Persistent beachball

Quite often, the pointer turns into a spinning beach ball while your Mac has a think. Occasionally it stays that way. First, try pressing ⌘+. to cancel whatever process is afoot. If that has no effect, switch to *Finder* or another app (using ⌥+⇥), and carry on working. If you wait, the app will finish what it's doing and give you its full attention.

If you're convinced the app isn't going to recover, force it to quit using the Quick Tip on the next page. Rarely, it refuses to die, or its windows may disappear while its Dock icon retains its open indicator. Restarting your Mac will get rid of it, but could give a message saying the app failed to quit. Hold down the power button to force shutdown.

You can also use a Unix command for this: run *Terminal* – found in Utilities within the Applications folder – and type sudo shutdown -h. Close other apps first to avoid losing data.

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#2 Lost a file

Be safe and back up your files to hard disk using Time Machine.

The first thing to do when you think you've mislaid an important file is to ask **Spotlight**. Press ⌘+[Space] to open the search bar, and type as much of the filename as you remember; pause after each letter to see what comes up.

If you've overwritten your work with a new file of the same name, or emptied the Trash, you've got a problem. *Time Machine* users can feel smug, as **Spotlight** will find files that don't currently exist but have been backed up. The software is built into OS X 10.5 and later, and the only hardware you need is a USB or FireWire hard disk.

If you haven't set it up yet, you may need a disk-recovery utility such as *Data Rescue 2*. This detects and restores deleted files as well as tackling more general disk problems. It's wise to stop using the disk as soon as you realise you're missing something; the likelihood of rescuing a deleted file depends on whether new data has been saved over it.

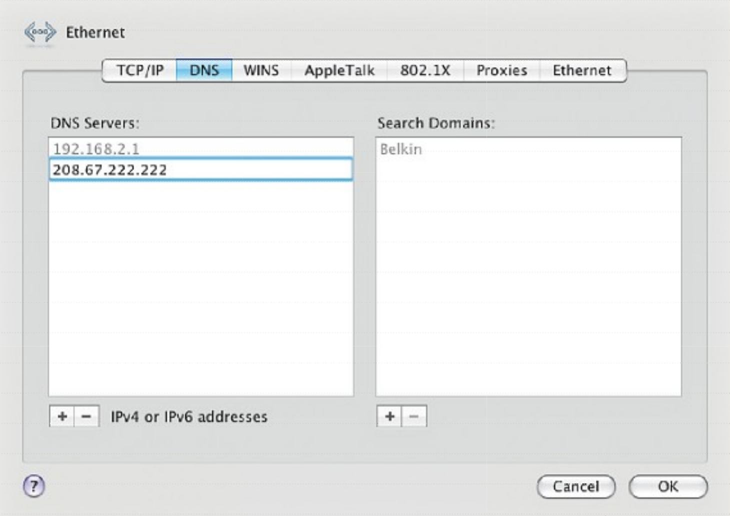
#3 Switching is slow

Adding RAM can be a great way to speed up your Mac, especially if you run a lot of apps at once.

Modern Macs are happy for you to run lots of apps at the same time – in fact, there's no limit. Yet your Mac has a finite amount of memory (RAM), so what gives? It's done with 'virtual memory'. When Mac OS X runs out of space in RAM for all the programs and data you're using at once, it moves some of them to a hidden temporary file on the hard disk.

This works so seamlessly that you don't notice it. But with a lot of apps on the go, it can end up happening each time you switch between them, and with major apps and large files this can take a little time.

A solution is to close some programs. Deleting files from your hard disk won't help; it's the space in RAM that's the issue. So the answer is more RAM. To check how much your Mac can take, select the model in the Memory Advisor at www.crucial.com/uk. Upgrading may mean adding more memory modules or replacing the existing ones with higher-capacity chips.



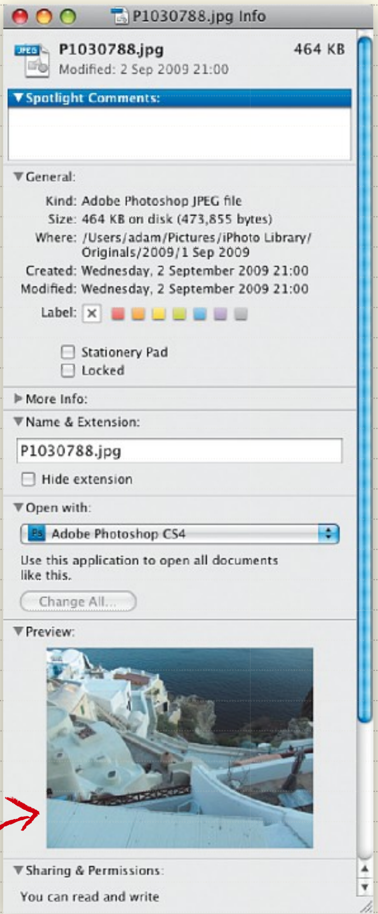
DNS Servers:
192.168.2.1
208.67.222.222

Search Domains:
Belkin

Though not generally necessary, specifying a DNS can cure Safari slowdowns.

#4 Safari is slow

A solution to a troublesome *Safari* is to choose Reset Safari from its menu and reset everything. If there's a regular delay before pages load, perhaps *Safari* isn't looking for them efficiently. Go to the Network pane of System Preferences, click your internet connection (Ethernet or AirPort), then Advanced, and go to the DNS tab. Under DNS Servers, you'll see nothing or the IP address of your router, greyed out. This leaves Mac OS X to find a default DNS (domain name server) that translates the web addresses you type into the actual IP addresses where sites are hosted. Pointing it to a specific DNS could speed things up. Choose OpenDNS. Click + and enter 208.67.222.222, repeat and enter 208.67.220.220. See www.opendns.com/start/computer for more details.



P1030788.jpg 464 KB
Modified: 2 Sep 2009 21:00

Kind: Adobe Photoshop JPEG file
Size: 464 KB on disk (473,855 bytes)
Where: /Users/adam/Pictures/iPhoto Library/Originals/2009/1 Sep 2009
Created: Wednesday, 2 September 2009 21:00
Modified: Wednesday, 2 September 2009 21:00

Name & Extension: P1030788.jpg

Open with: Adobe Photoshop CS4

Use this application to open all documents like this.

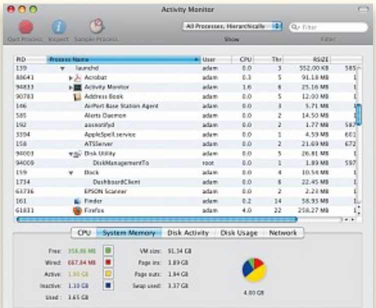
You can read and write

You can tell Mac OS X which app to use to open files of a given type.

QUICK TIP: Force quitting

The usual way to quit a program is to choose **Quit** from its **File** menu or press ⌘+Q. If this doesn't work, click and hold its Dock icon to show the **Quit** command; hold ⌥ to make it **Force Quit**, or press ⌘+⌥+esc, and this will almost always close the app.

Another way to kill apps that are 'no longer responding' is in *Activity Monitor*, found in **Utilities** within **Applications**. In the pop-up menu at the top, select **All Processes, Hierarchically**. Everything currently running is listed below: items with recognisable names and icons are apps, with processes belonging to them indented below, while others are likely to be parts of the Mac OS. Any process that's not responding will appear in red; click it, then click **Quit Process**.



If that still doesn't do it, note the PID (process ID) of the culprit, to the left of its name, then open *Terminal*, again in **Utilities**, and type **kill** followed by the PID - for example, **kill 18899** - and hit ↩. *Activity Monitor* shows how much memory the apps are using and helps you manage crashes.

#5 Documents open in the wrong app

Although hardly a catastrophe, this can be an ongoing source of vexation. Yet it's easy to fix once you know how.

For example, when you download a JPEG file, double-clicking it will normally open *Preview*. But if you habitually use *Photoshop* to work with photos, *Preview* may be irrelevant. To change this, select any JPEG and press ⌘+I (Get Info). Under Open with, select your preferred app, such as *Photoshop*, and click Change All. Confirm this and all JPEGs will always open in *Photoshop*.

This works for any combination of file type and compatible application. The files themselves aren't changed; you're just altering the Mac OS's list of file associations.

The serious stuff

More than just irksome, these symptoms mean serious business...

#6 Mac won't start

A total lack of response to the power button could mean a blown fuse in the plug, so check first. If it's not completely dead, the Mac will do a 'power-on self-test' (POST) as it boots up, and beep if it finds a fault. The power LED may flash too. One, two or three beeps points the finger at RAM modules (see http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1547). Try easing them into place, in case they've become unseated. Your manual will tell you how to get at the RAM, or go to www.apple.com/support and search for 'install memory' and your Mac's model name. Four and five beeps indicate problems with the system ROM or processor, while the Air also has an 'SOS' code consisting of three short, three long and then three short beeps. If you hear these, seek professional Mac help.

The MacBook Air will sensibly send out an SOS if runs into any serious trouble.

MacBook Air

#7 Need to rescue my files

If something's amiss with your Mac, copy off as much data as you can before anything else happens. This may be possible even when you can't access *Finder*, using FireWire **Target Disk** mode. You'll need another Mac: see **http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1661**, and compare specs in *System Profiler* (go to **About This Mac** on the menu and click **More Info**).

Turn off the problem Mac, leaving the other running. Unplug any FireWire peripherals and connect a FireWire cable between the two (use one with a 6-pin connector, not the 4-pin video camera plug). Start up your problem Mac, holding down T. This is the target Mac, while the other is the host. The target should appear as an icon on the host's Desktop, and you can drag files off it.

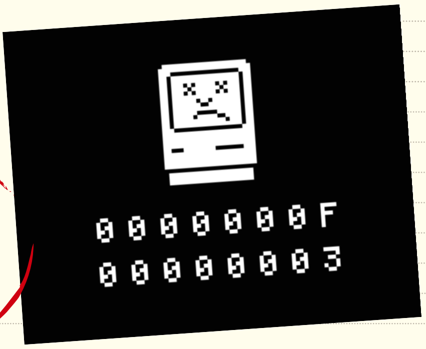
Rescue files using a FireWire cable between your host and target Macs.

#8 Mac starts, but stops

Startup might stall with a plain blue or grey screen, a flashing question mark, a broken folder icon, or – rarely – a 'sad Mac'. Sometimes, especially in the last instance, you may have a hardware problem, but let's look on the bright side.

Installed Snow Leopard and got a grey screen? Check out http://support.apple.com/kb/TS2990, as it could be due to an incomplete previous update. Plugged in a USB or FireWire device? It could be incompatible or conflict with another peripheral; unplug everything and restart. Memory upgrades can sometimes get through the POST (see Tip 6) but then crash; try re-installing. The same goes for other internal upgrades.

Nothing so obvious? Try a Safe Boot, which adds extra self-tests. Shut down, then start up while holding ⇧. If this works, immediately try a normal restart. Otherwise, reset the PRAM, as explained in the Quick Tip on the next page; check the hard disk (Tip 15); and read http://support.apple.com/kb/TS1411 and TS2570.



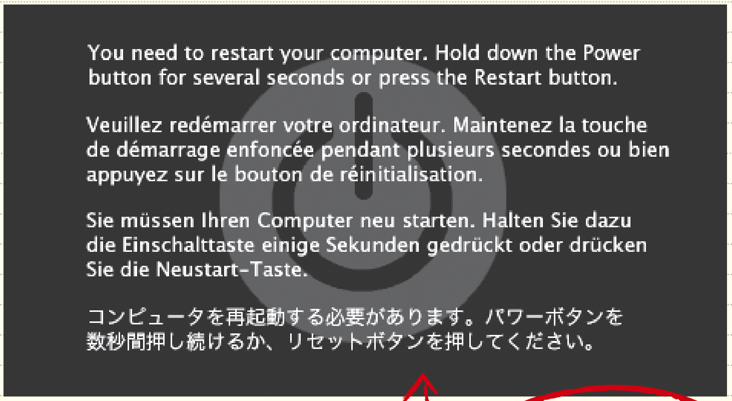
A sad Mac can mean 'hardware fault', but try turning off, waiting a few minutes and restarting.

QUICK TIP: Reset PRAM and NVRAM

The PRAM (parameter RAM) and NVRAM (non-volatile RAM) are battery-backed memory modules in many Macs that store vital system settings. They sometimes become corrupted, making the system behave oddly. The solution is to reset them. Restart your Mac and, before the grey screen appears, press and hold ⌥+⌘+P+R. It should restart again, and with a bit of luck any glitches will be gone. A number of problems can be solved this way.

After resetting, you'll need to reselect your options for things like the clock, volume and mouse. If the Mac fails to remember these choices while switched off, you might need to replace the PRAM backup battery on the motherboard. Find details in your Mac's manual, or call Apple. The batteries in Mac Pros and earlier desktops are easily replaceable, but others are better tackled by a professional. If you have a G4 or earlier, you may need to reset the power management unit (PMU): **http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1431**.

If all has failed with your G4 try resetting the PMU.



You need to restart your computer. Hold down the Power button for several seconds or press the Restart button.

Veuillez redémarrer votre ordinateur. Maintenez la touche de démarrage enfoncée pendant plusieurs secondes ou bien appuyez sur le bouton de réinitialisation.

Sie müssen Ihren Computer neu starten. Halten Sie dazu die Einschalttaste einige Sekunden gedrückt oder drücken Sie die Neustart-Taste.

コンピュータを再起動する必要があります。パワーボタンを数秒間押し続けるか、リセットボタンを押してください。

Somebody at Apple had great fun making the Kernel Panic alert look maximally sinister...

#9 Kernel panic

When the OS crashes it can only bow out with the message 'You need to restart your computer'. This is a kernel panic. It's rare and, thankfully, often fixed by restarting.

If not, try unplugging all add-ons from your Mac and restarting. Internal upgrades – including dodgy RAM – can provoke kernel panics, as can devices such as USB hubs.

Another possibility is that a system file has become corrupted. Restart while holding X; if this works, go to System Preferences, click Startup Disk and ensure the correct disk is selected. Or, restart holding down ⌥, releasing it when icons appear; you'll be asked which disk to start up from. Or zap the PRAM (see the Quick Tip box above).

If none of those work, perhaps you've moved, renamed or deleted a system file. Reversing this may sort it out – or not. The last resort is to reinstall Mac OS X. Start up from your Mac's OS X DVD, run the installer and choose Archive and Install. You'll need to reinstall your apps, though.

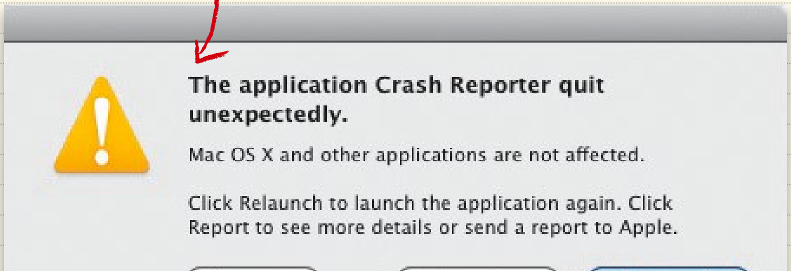
#10 An application is playing up

When an application suddenly no longer works properly, a common cause is corrupted preferences. Each application has its own preference files containing configuration data, and because they're read and written so often these are rather susceptible to corruption.

When an app crashes, Mac OS X may offer to reset its preferences. You can also do this manually. Preference files, identified by the extension .plist, are stored in /Library/Preferences (on your main hard disk) and in /user/Library/Preferences, where user is your user account's home folder. Look here and you can usually see which prefs belong to which apps. Having quit the application, make a folder on the Desktop called Suspect prefs (for example) and move all the app's preference files into this. Now relaunch the app. This forces it to rebuild its plists, which should solve the problem.

If it doesn't, just put the plists back. Some apps also have self-repair functions; for example, holding the ⌥ key while launching may bring up a settings box. Have a look in your app's manual. Otherwise, you'll have to reinstall the application from its DVD or disc image file (.dmg).

Mac OS X copes well when applications crash, and can even enjoy a joke at its own expense.



The application Crash Reporter quit unexpectedly.

Mac OS X and other applications are not affected.

Click Relaunch to launch the application again. Click Report to see more details or send a report to Apple.

Storage slip-ups

Tame your Mac's disk drives and save yourself some hassle

#11 I can't eject a disc

You want to use a CD or DVD, but there's already one in your Mac. So you hit the **Eject** button and… nothing happens. What now?

Daft as it sounds, try holding the button down longer. A slight delay has been added to stop you ejecting discs accidentally. You can tap the ⌥ key to hurry it up. Still no joy? Find the disc on the Desktop and drag it onto the Trash icon in the Dock. Or click the **Eject** icon besides the disc's name at the left of any *Finder* window.

Still not coming out? Launch *Terminal*, found in **/Applications/Utilities**, type **drutil tray open** and press ↩. That should do the trick. No? The final option is to restart your Mac while holding down the left mouse-button.

External disk and memory drives can also fail to eject, usually because software is refusing to let go of them. Close the likely culprits: for example, *iPhoto*. If you have this problem often, try the free utility *WhatsOpen* **www.aga support.com/AGA Support/WhatsOpen.html**.

Tapping the alt button while ejecting discs can hurry the process.

QUICK TIP: Using fsck

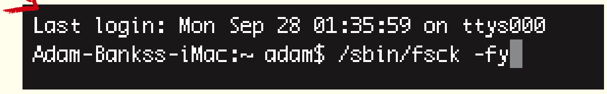
Ironically, hard-disk-related problems can prevent you from loading the very software that you'd need to fix them. Fortunately, Mac OS X's Unix kernel provides a command called **fsck** that you can use to sort out a dodgy disk without even having to see *Finder*.

Restart your Mac while holding down ⌘+S: this invokes **single-user mode**, giving you a particularly scary black screen with white letters on it. Here, type **/sbin/fsck -fy**, press ↩, and wait for your Mac to respond.

It'll either say the disk **appears to be OK** or that **File system was modified**, meaning it fixed something. In the former case, you'll need to look elsewhere for the cause of your glitch; in the latter, run **fsck** again, as before, until it reports that your disk is OK.

Finish by restarting the Mac: type **reboot** and press ↩.

Starting up in single-user mode lets you enter Unix commands without launching Finder.



```
Last login: Mon Sep 28 01:35:59 on ttys000
Adam-Bankss-iMac:~ adam$ /sbin/fsck -fy
```

#12 My hard disk is full

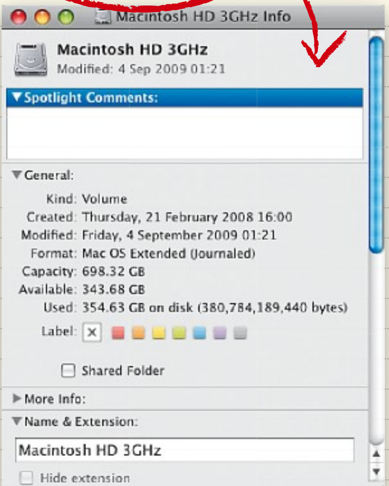
Running out of room on your hard disk may manifest itself in an alert box warning that it's 'nearly full'; or programs such as *Photoshop* failing to complete operations; or your Mac generally slowing down.

On any hard disk, files are invisibly split into chunks to fit into the gaps left by previous additions and deletions. The more 'fragmented' a drive becomes, the harder it has to work. A rule of thumb is that you should leave 10% of the disk empty to minimise fragmentation. To check how full the disk is, select its icon on the Desktop (or in the sidebar of any *Finder* window) and press ⌘+I. Under **General**, you'll see how much is free. When space gets tight, delete some files. Move work onto an external drive, and remove apps you don't use.

Use **Spotlight** to find unwanted files. Press ⌘+F in *Finder* to open a search, then set the criteria. For example, choose **Kind**, **is**, **Other**, then type **disk image**: this will find all the .dmg files you downloaded to install programs and no longer need. Or switch from **Kind** to **Size**, choose **is greater than** and enter, say, 50MB.

Delete files within the search results by selecting them and pressing ⌘+⌫: they don't disappear, but their details, in the bar at the bottom, show they now reside in the Trash. Empty the Trash otherwise all you've 'deleted' is still on your hard disk.

Use Get Info to check how much space is free on your hard disk.



Macintosh HD 3GHz
Modified: 4 Sep 2009 01:21

Kind: Volume
Created: Thursday, 21 February 2008 16:00
Modified: Friday, 4 September 2009 01:21
Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)
Capacity: 698.32 GB
Available: 343.68 GB
Used: 354.63 GB on disk (380,784,189,440 bytes)
Label: ☒ 🟥 🟧 🟨 🟩 🟦 🟪 ⬜

☐ Shared Folder

Macintosh HD 3GHz

☐ Hide extension

#13 My optical drive won't read

CD and DVD drives are susceptible to dust, which can build up on the lens that directs the laser onto the disc. In general, this isn't something you need to worry about; as with most pets, attempting regular cleaning can do more harm than good. But if the drive stops working, try a lens-cleaning disc such as the Philips SVC2520/10, £4 from **www.amazon.co.uk**.

Follow the instructions and you could find your dead drive lives again. There's a small chance that it could make things worse – but it worked for our Mac mini.

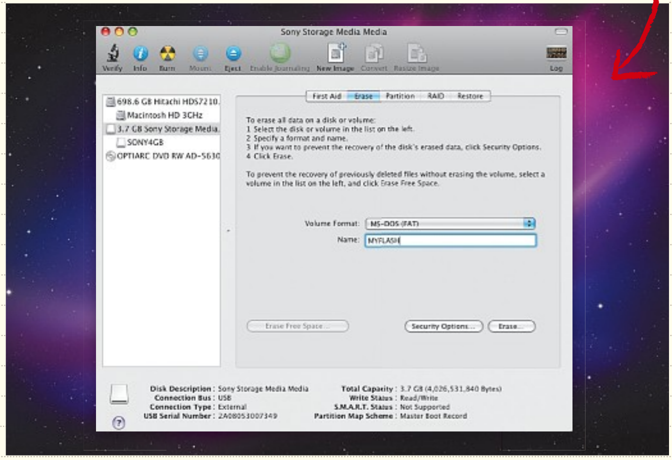
Resurrect your dead drive with a simple measure such as a cleaning disc.

#14 Flash drive won't read

Unplugging a memory drive without ejecting it can leave it in an inaccessible state, and some computers not made by Apple have a habit of killing memory sticks. If a flash drive is playing up, you can reformat it using *Disk Utility*, found in /Applications/Utilities. When plugged in, the drive should appear on the left, even if it didn't show up in *Finder*. If not, it's time to buy a new drive.

Having selected the device, you can check it in the First Aid tab and try the Repair option, but this is designed for hard disks and may not help. More likely, you'll need to go to the Erase tab and reformat it. Choose MS-DOS (FAT), which works with both Macs and PCs, and click Erase (not Erase Free Space).

When a memory drive plays up, reformat it with Disk Utility to get it working again.

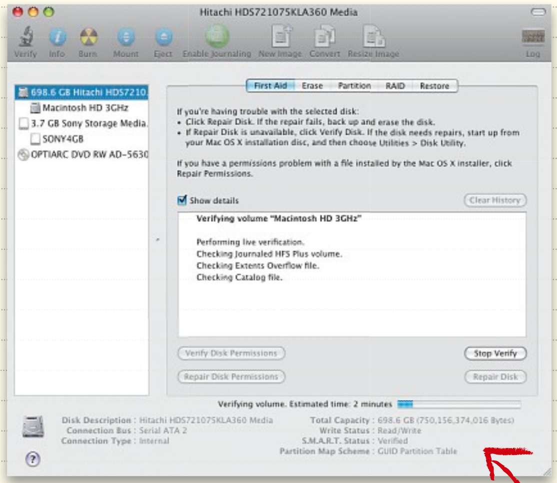

Sony Storage Media Media
Verify
Info
Burn
Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Log
698.6 GB Hitachi HDS7210...
Macintosh HD 3GHz
3.7 GB Sony Storage Media...
SONY4GB
OPTIARC DVD RW AD-5630
First Aid
Erase
Partition
RAID
Restore
Erase Free Space...
Security Options...
Erase...

To erase all data on a disk or volume:
1 Select the disk or volume in the list on the left.
2 Specify a format and name.
3 If you want to prevent the recovery of the disk's erased data, click Security Options.
4 Click Erase.

To prevent the recovery of previously deleted files without erasing the volume, select a volume in the list on the left, and click Erase Free Space.

Volume Format: MS-DOS (FAT)
Name: MYFLASH

Disk Description : Sony Storage Media Media
Connection Bus : USB
Connection Type : External
USB Serial Number : 2A08053007349
Total Capacity : 3.7 GB (4,026,531,840 Bytes)
Write Status : Read/Write
S.M.A.R.T. Status : Not Supported
Partition Map Scheme : Master Boot Record


Hitachi HDS721075KLA360 Media
Verify
Info
Burn
Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Log
698.6 GB Hitachi HDS7210...
Macintosh HD 3GHz
3.7 GB Sony Storage Media...
SONY4GB
OPTIARC DVD RW AD-5630
First Aid
Erase
Partition
RAID
Restore
Clear History
Verify Disk Permissions
Stop Verify
Repair Disk Permissions
Repair Disk

If you're having trouble with the selected disk:
- Click Repair Disk. If the repair fails, back up and erase the disk.
- If Repair Disk is unavailable, click Verify Disk. If the disk needs repairs, start up from your Mac OS X installation disc, and then choose Utilities > Disk Utility.

If you have a permissions problem with a file installed by the Mac OS X installer, click Repair Permissions.

☑ Show details

```
Verifying volume "Macintosh HD 3GHz"

Performing live verification.
Checking Journaled HFS Plus volume.
Checking Extents Overflow file.
Checking Catalog file.
```

Verifying volume. Estimated time: 2 minutes

Disk Description : Hitachi HDS721075KLA360 Media
Connection Bus : Serial ATA 2
Connection Type : Internal
Total Capacity : 698.6 GB (750,156,374,016 Bytes)
Write Status : Read/Write
S.M.A.R.T. Status : Verified
Partition Map Scheme : GUID Partition Table

#15 Something just seems funny

Your Mac starts up fine but runs slowly; or applications and files lose their icons; or certain functions stop working. Which component is to blame? Well, while most are marvels of solid state, the hard disk basically still consists of a roulette wheel full of iron filings and a fishing rod with a magnet on the end. This is not a recipe for reliability.

The home of drive maintenance is *Disk Utility*, in /Applications/Utilities. Select your drive in the panel on the left; you'll notice it has two icons, one for the hard disk itself, another for the 'logical partition' containing your data (named Macintosh HD by default). Select either, then go to the First Aid tab and click Verify Disk. This checks the data structure; any errors it finds can usually be fixed by clicking Repair Disk.

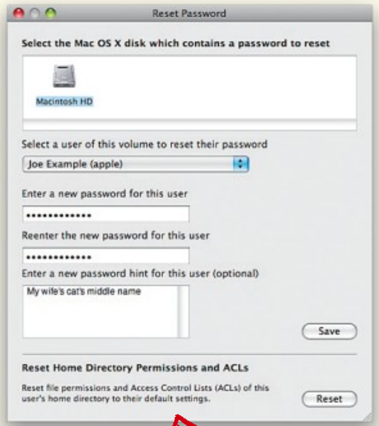
However, if this is your main hard disk, you can't repair it while the Mac OS is running off it, so you'll need to restart with your OS DVD, holding the C key to boot from it. Having repaired your hard disk, restart while holding down the left mouse-button to eject the DVD and restart. If the repair fails, you'll be asked if you want to erase the disk; obviously you don't, and your next stop should be an engineer. First copy any vital files onto an external drive, and avoid writing new files to the hard disk.

The other handy tool here is Repair Disk Permissions. Permissions are an obscure but important feature of the operating system – explained at http://support.apple.com/kb/HT1452 – that can cause oddness if they go wrong. Just click the button to fix them.

Disk Utility lets you check and repair hard disks with a couple of clicks.

And the rest

To round off, a multi-purpose miscellany of troubleshooting tips



Select the Mac OS X disk which contains a password to reset

Select a user of this volume to reset their password: Joe Example (apple)

Enter a new password for this user: ••••••••••••

Reenter the new password for this user: ••••••••••••

Enter a new password hint for this user (optional): My wife's cat's middle name

Reset Home Directory Permissions and ACLs

Reset file permissions and Access Control Lists (ACLs) of this user's home directory to their default settings.

Resetting your user account password is easy, if you have your OS X disc.

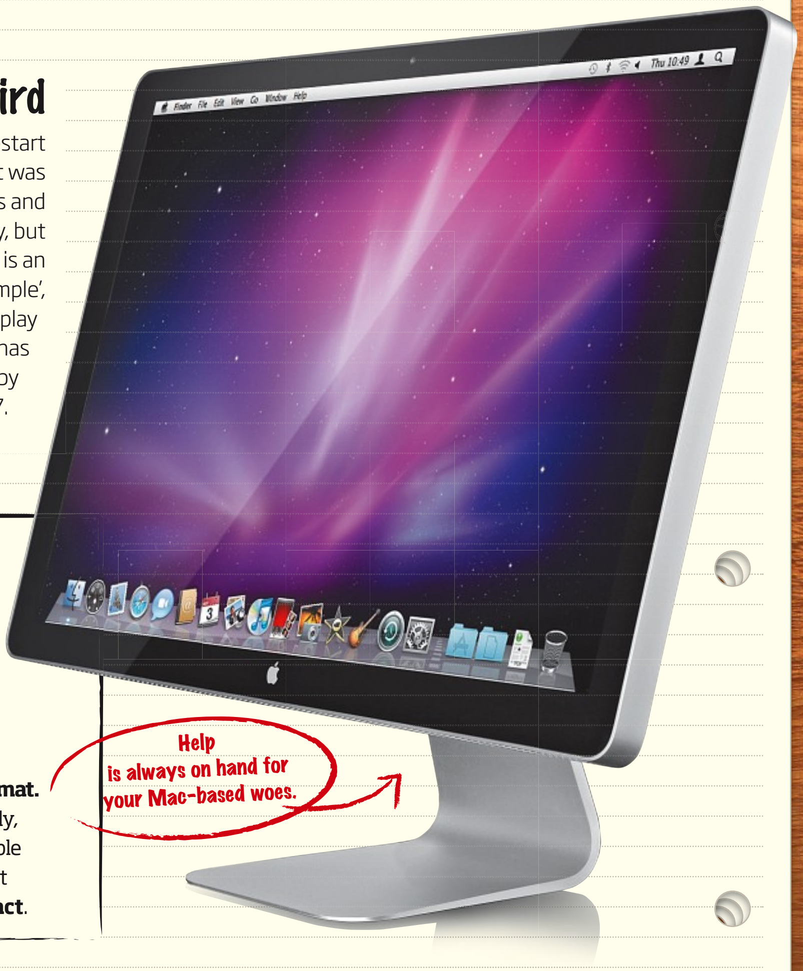
#16 Forgotten password

The great thing about password-protected user accounts is that other people can't get at your stuff. But if you forget the password, you can't get at it either. However, if your Mac starts up with a login request and you've forgotten it, all you need is the OS X DVD that came with the computer. Insert and restart, holding the C key to make sure your Mac boots from the DVD. You'll find a **Utilities** menu that includes the command **Reset Password**. Do it, then restart, holding down the left mouse-button.

If you used *FileVault* (in the **Security** pane of *System Preferences*) to encrypt your home folder, the procedure is different. To override your *FileVault* password you need your master password. Don't know this either? The only way to get data back is to crack the 1024-bit RSA encryption algorithm, which according to a recent paper, won't happen until 'at least until 2014'.

#17 Screen goes weird

If the screen suddenly looks messed up, a restart is often all that's required. With CRT monitors, it was possible to choose from a combination of resolutions and refresh rates that would result in an illegible display, but with today's LCDs the worst that can happen is an inappropriate resolution forces the screen to 'upsample', giving a slightly pixellated appearance. If your display becomes illegible or blank, the video configuration has gone seriously adrift. This can often be fixed by zapping the PRAM: see the Quick Tip on page 37.

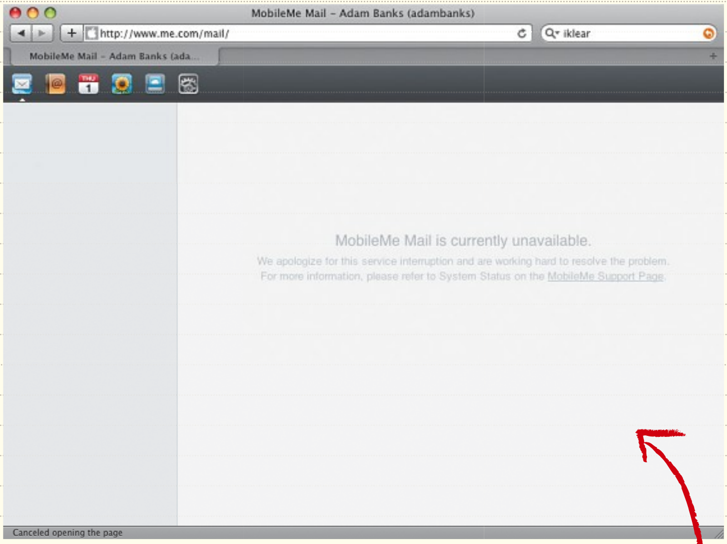


Help is always on hand for your Mac-based woes.

QUICK TIP: Get help!

AppleCare Protection Plan

When you can't resolve a problem, call in the cavalry. If your machine is covered by AppleCare, Apple's extended support plan, use it. Or, browse Apple's support forum at **http://discussions.apple.com**, or our own **forum.macformat.co.uk**, and ask forum users. Alternatively, track down your nearest authorised Apple dealer or find Apple's own contact info at **www.apple.com/uk/support/contact**.


MobileMe Mail – Adam Banks (adambanks)
http://www.me.com/mail/
iklear
MobileMe Mail – Adam Banks (ada...

MobileMe Mail is currently unavailable.

We apologize for this service interruption and are working hard to resolve the problem.
For more information, please refer to System Status on the MobileMe Support Page.

Canceled opening the page

#18 Failed to sync

Syncing email, contacts and calendars between your Mac and iPhone or iPod touch is probably the best reason to subscribe to Apple's MobileMe service. However, now and then, you may find the information you expected to see on your device isn't there.

Like any online service, MobileMe itself can suffer glitches. Log in to **www.me.com** (in *Safari*) and check the **Contacts** and **Calendar** pages. If your data is correct there, but not on your device, it's probably just temporary, so give it a few minutes (staying online) to fix itself. To confirm whether there's a fault with MobileMe, check **System Status** on your **Summary** page.

If this isn't the cause, try resetting your sync data. Check that the data on your Mac is the version you want to keep; if you've added info on your iPhone or iPod, it's going to get overwritten. Go to **System Preferences**. Click **MobileMe**, go to the **Sync** tab and click **Advanced**, then click **Reset Sync Data**. Choose **All Sync Info** from the **Replace** pop-up menu, then click the right arrow button, making the orange arrow go from the Mac to MobileMe. Current data will be copied from your Mac to your MobileMe account, which should propagate it to your iPhone or touch.

Or, 'turn it off and turn it on again'. Restart by holding the power button until **Slide to power off** appears, do that, then press the button again to turn it back on. Go to Settings > Mail, Contacts, Calendars > MobileMe. Using the sliders, turn off each item that isn't syncing properly. When this is confirmed, go to the relevant app and check the data has gone. Then turn syncing on again.

When MobileMe fails to sync, check the service status before you blame your own kit.

#19 Audio input/output broken

Sometimes you'll find your Mac isn't hearing you, or vice versa. The reason can often be found in the **Sound** pane of *System Preferences*. The tabs are: **Sound Effects** (controls noises made by Mac OS X and apps); **Output** (controls speakers and headphones); and **Input** (controls microphones and other sound sources).

Plugging headphones or speakers into the headphone jack diverts the signal from the internal speaker, so **Headphones** replaces **Internal speaker** in the device list. However, your Mac remembers the **Output volume** you last used for your headphones, and applies this.

In the **Input** tab, increasing the **Input volume** slider should increase the level on the meter as you make a noise. If no blue dots light up, your microphone isn't working. Note that on the latest iMacs, the mic is above the webcam; placing things over this will kill mic input.

#20 Cleanup needed

Spilling liquids on your Mac is a nightmare scenario. With a laptop, grab it quickly – being wary of any non-MagSafe cables – and turn it upside down, allowing as much liquid as possible to run off; then shut it down and leave it in a warm (not hot) and dry place to recover. Clean off any residue with a cotton bud slightly dampened with water.

With desktop Macs it's usually the keyboard that gets it. Unplug, turn upside down, then assess the damage. If the liquid has gone right inside and is something that won't easily evaporate away, like a fizzy drink or beer, consider running the whole thing under the tap; this shouldn't cause permanent damage as long as you dry it out fully, leaving it somewhere warmish for a day or so, before reconnecting. This is, of course, entirely at your own risk.

On a less mission-critical theme, white MacBooks can get grubby quickly. A clean cloth lightly dampened with plain water is safe to use, but what if it doesn't shift the marks? Try erasing them with, yes, an eraser, which should only set you back a couple of quid.

If this doesn't work, some users recommend Magic Eraser, the spongy stuff filled with a cleaning agent. Or, Apple's recommended cleaner, iKlear, is available from the Apple Store at £14.95 for 59ml. ●

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SYSYTEM STATUS 100%
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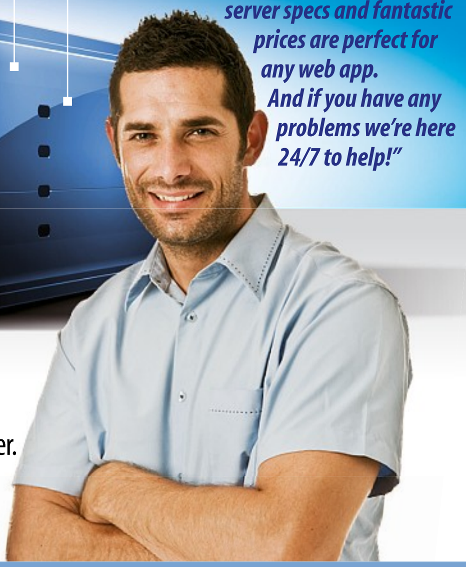
Xeon
inside
intel
Intel Xeon processor

"Our great dedicated server specs and fantastic prices are perfect for any web app. And if you have any problems we're here 24/7 to help!"



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"Want powerful, free photo editing? Get into bed with the GIMP"

A GUIDE TO THIS OPEN SOURCE CHAMP P51

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Wed 08:19
Layers, Cha
Path Tool
Edit Path Attributes...
New Path...
Raise Path
Lower Path
Duplicate Path
Delete Path
Merge Visible Paths
Path to Selection
Add to Selection
Subtract from Selection
Intersect with Selection
Selection to Path
Stroke Path...
Copy Path
Paste Path
Export Path...
Import Path...
Paths Menu
Add Tab
Close Tab
Detach Tab
Lock Tab to Dock
Preview Size
Tab Style
View as List
View as Grid
Show Button Bar
Show Image Selection
Auto Follow Active Image
Paths
Edit Mode
Design
Edit (Ctrl)
Move (Alt)
Polygonal
Selection from Path
Stroke Path
Brushes
Circle (11) (13 × 13)
px
50 %
Background (71.5 MB)

How to...

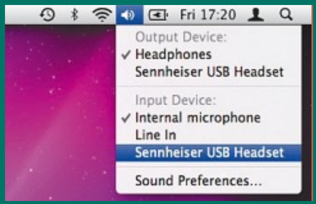
● PHOTOS ● MOVIES ● MUSIC ● OFFICE ● SYSTEM

Christopher Phin
Deputy Editor

The *GIMP* is one of the poster children of the open source movement, and with good cause; it's powerful, flexible and, of course, free. That said, it can be a difficult app to get your head around, so Dave Stevenson's excellent primer on editing your photos for free should be required reading for anyone who hankers for *Photoshop*-like power on a budget. Turn to page 51 to get started with this rich and impressive app.

But we've not abandoned the traditional Mac applications. We've got a cracking tutorial on adding chapter markers and comments to your films in *iMovie*, plus a great guide on page 46 on getting started with the handy **Events** feature introduced with the version of *iPhoto* included in *iLife '08*. And if you're after more professional tutelage, our guide to watermarking pictures in *Aperture* on page 48 will surely aid your online business.

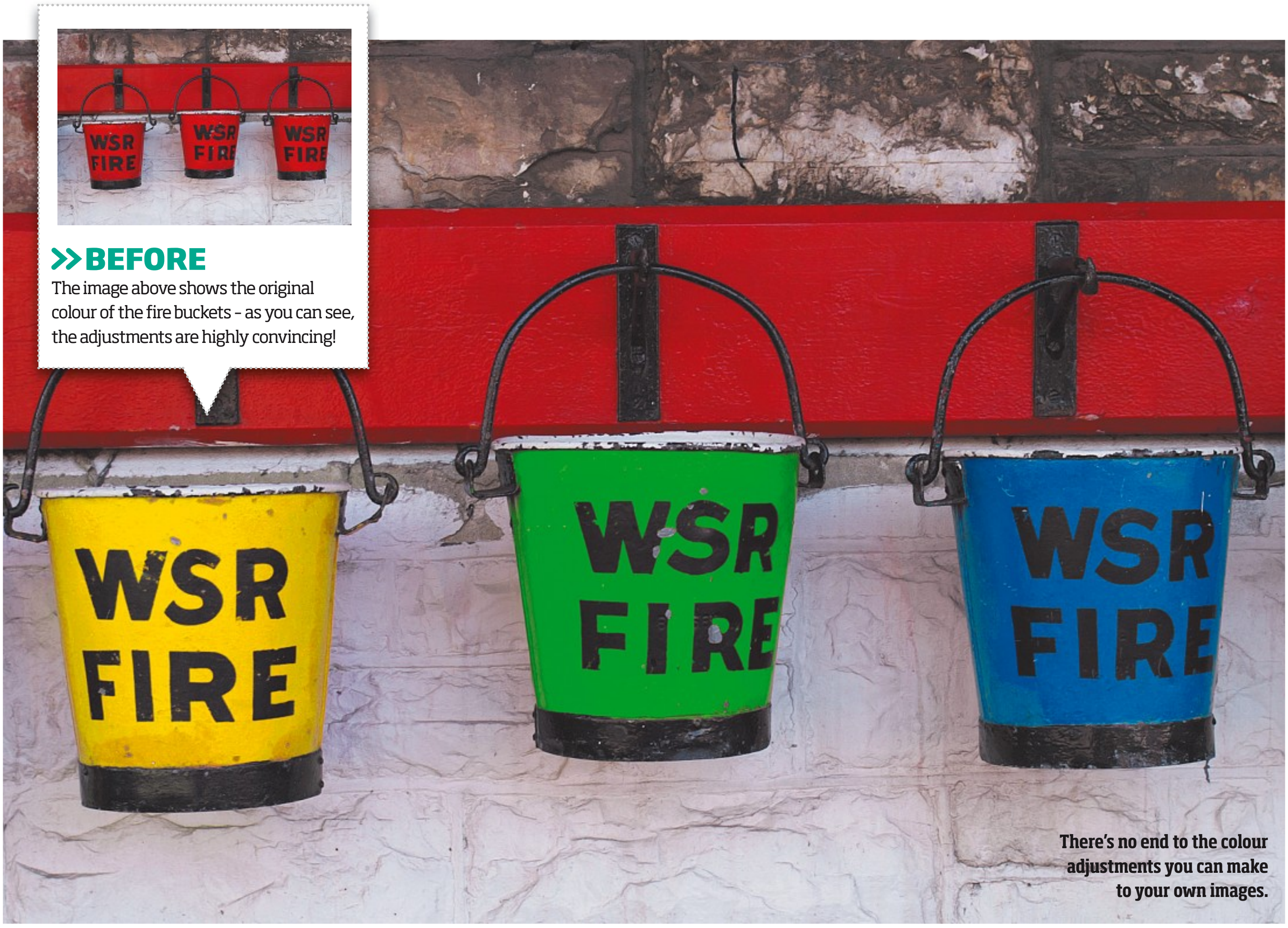
There's tons of stuff to help you get the best from your system as well; the revamped **Services** menu in Snow Leopard gets Craig Grannell thinking creatively on page 68, and Chris Brennan shows you how to secure your Mac on page 64.



Fri 17:20
Output Device:
✓ Headphones
Sennheiser USB Headset
Input Device:
✓ Internal microphone
Line In
Sennheiser USB Headset
Sound Preferences...

>> DID YOU KNOW?

In Snow Leopard, it's easy to switch between audio sources and outputs; just hold down ⌥ when you click on the volume control in the menu bar and they're listed.



>>BEFORE
The image above shows the original colour of the fire buckets – as you can see, the adjustments are highly convincing!

There's no end to the colour adjustments you can make to your own images.

Swap colours in Photoshop

Change the colours of objects quickly, simply and invisibly

>>KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Adobe Photoshop or Photoshop Elements for Mac (from £68, **www.adobe.com/uk**), some digital photos

Your first instinct when trying to change an item's colour in one of your images might be to choose the most likely looking selection tool and painstakingly pick out the outline of the object. And pain is the right word. The Magnetic Lasso sounds ideal but hardly ever works, so you're left with the Polygonal Lasso tool and a laborious point-to-point selection. And when you've finished it, you've still got to work out how to switch colours.

But the trick to using *Photoshop* and *Elements* effectively is to get them to do as much of the work as possible. How? If there's any tonal or colour difference between an object and its surroundings, there's usually a way to exploit it in *Photoshop* or *Elements* to create a selection, which can then be tweaked and modified as necessary to clean it up.

The Replace Color dialog is the perfect example. It can select the object you want to modify and replace it with any colour. Used properly, the rest of your image will be unaffected, and there will be no visible 'join' between your fix and the rest of the picture, even with the trickiest outlines.

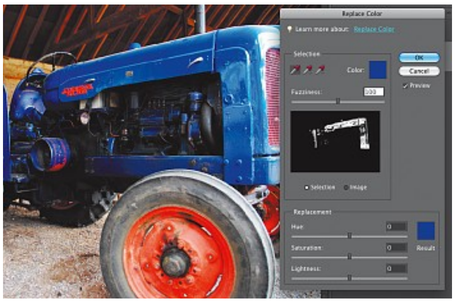
> *"The trick to using Adobe Photoshop and Elements is to get them to do as much of the work as possible"*

First, select the colour you want to replace by clicking on the image. Use the + and - eyedropper tools and the Fuzziness slider to select the colour and all its different shades, while excluding the surroundings as much as you can. Second, choose the colour to replace it with, using the Color Picker or the eyedropper.

The dialog has a selection preview that shows how you're doing. Ideally your object should be fully white (selected) and the background fully black (deselected), but the selection doesn't have to be perfect. What if more than one area in the picture shares the same colour? Use the Freehand Lasso tool to separate out the object you want to change.

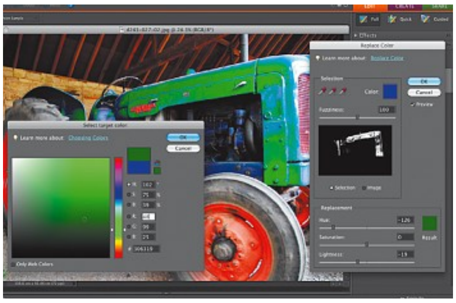
Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Change the colour of specific objects in an image


Replace Color
Learn more about: Replace Color
Selection
Color:
Fuzziness: 100
OK
Cancel
Preview
Selection
Image
Replacement
Hue: 0
Saturation: 0
Lightness: 0
Result

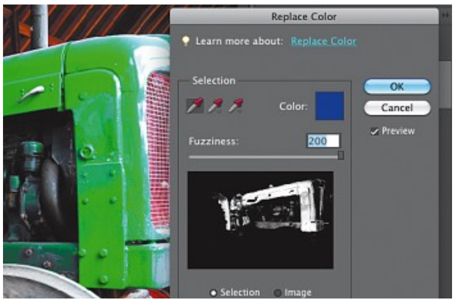
01 Select the colour

First, open the **Replace Color** dialog. In *Photoshop*, it's under Image > Adjustments; in *Elements* it's under Enhance > Adjust Color. Use the **eyedropper** to select the colour to replace. Here we want to change the blue paint on the tractor. Note the black and white preview.


Select target color:
Learn more about: Choosing Colors
OK
Cancel
Only Web Colors
Replace Color
Fuzziness: 100
Replacement
Hue: -126
Saturation: 0
Lightness: -19

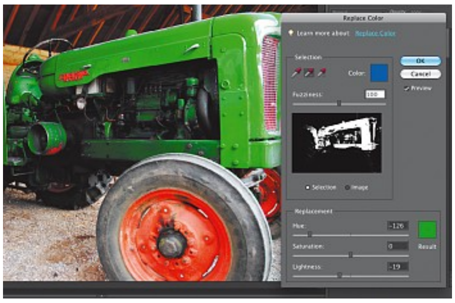
02 Choose the new colour

Click the replacement colour swatch in the lower part of the dialog. Choose a colour from the **Color Picker**, click anywhere else on the image with the **eyedropper** or even click on part of another image. You'll now see the new colour replacing the old one in your image.


Replace Color
Learn more about: Replace Color
Selection
Color:
Fuzziness: 200
OK
Cancel
Preview
Selection
Image

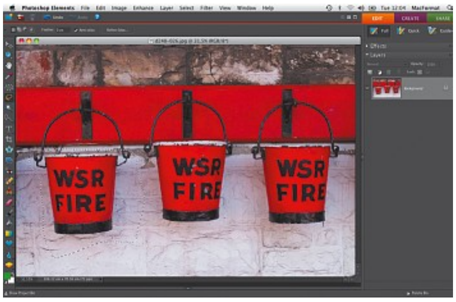
03 Adjust the Fuzziness

In this instance, we didn't manage to pick up all the different blue tones in the tractor. One solution is to try increasing the **Fuzziness** value. You can preview the effect without applying it. Even with the **Fuzziness** set to **200**, though, it's not quite enough.


Replace Color
Learn more about: Replace Color
Selection
Color:
Fuzziness: 100
OK
Cancel
Preview
Selection
Image
Replacement
Hue: -126
Saturation: 0
Lightness: -19
Result

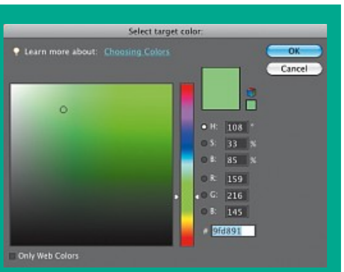
04 Add to the selection

What we need here isn't increased **Fuzziness**, but a wider selection. To add to the colour selection, click the **+ eyedropper** in the dialog and click on areas that were missed out first time round (set the **Fuzziness** slider back to its previous position). The change worked!


Photoshop Elements
WSR FIRE
WSR FIRE
WSR FIRE

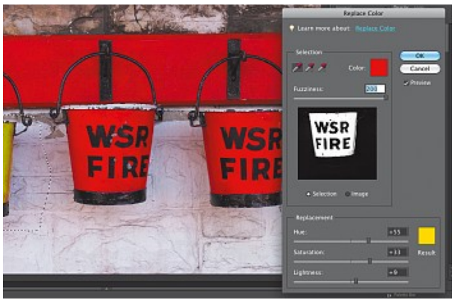
05 Work with selections

Here, we've got three red fire buckets that we want to colour individually. Instead of changing the colours globally, roughly select each object individually with the **Freehand Lasso** tool. It doesn't have to be precise, as long as it separates any similarly coloured areas.


Select target color:
Learn more about: Choosing Colors
OK
Cancel
H: 108 °
S: 33 %
B: 85 %
R: 159
G: 216
B: 145
# 9fd891
Only Web Colors

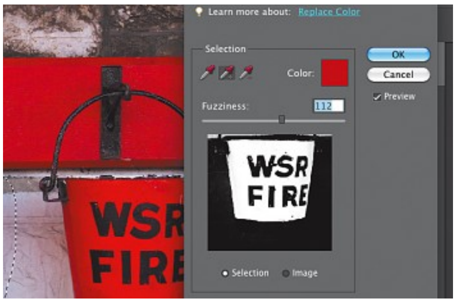
QUICK TIP

You can use the **Replace Color** dialog to fix colours by eye, but if you're a graphic designer, you may want to pick a specific colour as part of a colour scheme. Helpfully, with the **Color Picker** you can type RGB, HSB or hexadecimal colours directly.


Replace Color
Learn more about: Replace Color
Selection
Color:
Fuzziness: 200
OK
Cancel
Preview
Selection
Image
Replacement
Hue: +55
Saturation: +11
Lightness: +9
Result

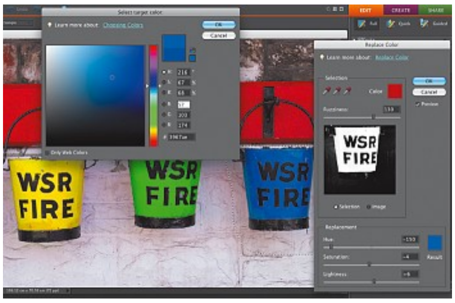
06 Selective adjustments

We've changed the first bucket from red to yellow and there's no danger of the edge of the selection becoming visible thanks to the unaffected white wall. We didn't get all of the red in the bucket, and the yellow isn't quite right, but the next two steps offer solutions.


Learn more about: Replace Color
Selection
Color:
Fuzziness: 112
OK
Cancel
Preview
Selection
Image

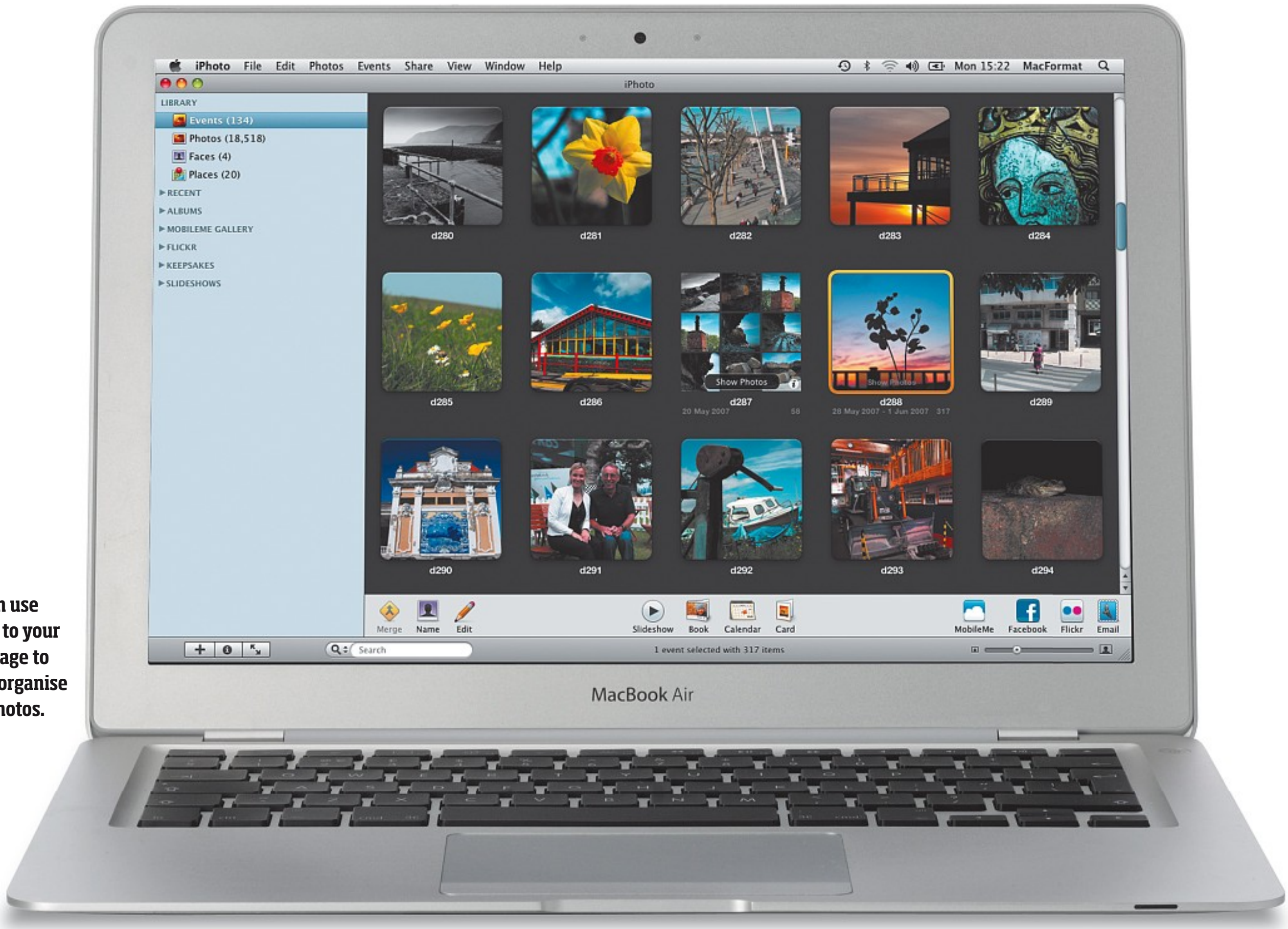
07 Fuzziness and selections

We needed to set the **Fuzziness** to maximum to select anything like the full range of red tones, and then use the **+ eyedropper** to add to the selections. This changed the colour of the white wall, which meant reducing the **Fuzziness** value until it went back to white.


Select target color:
Learn more about: Choosing Colors
OK
Cancel
Only Web Colors
Replace Color
Replacement
Hue: -159
Result

08 Re-adjust the final colour

If you need to make repeated selection and **Fuzziness** adjustments to get the colour right, you'll often find that the replacement colour shifts in the process. But once you've got the selection right, just click on the replacement colour swatch again to readjust it. ●


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
Mon 15:22 MacFormat
iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events (134)
Photos (18,518)
Faces (4)
Places (20)
RECENT
ALBUMS
MOBILEME GALLERY
FLICKR
KEEPSAKES
SLIDESHOWS
d280
d281
d282
d283
d284
d285
d286
Show Photos
d287
20 May 2007
d288
28 May 2007 - 1 Jun 2007 317
d289
d290
d291
d292
d293
d294
Merge
Name
Edit
Slideshow
Book
Calendar
Card
MobileMe
Facebook
Flickr
Email
Search
1 event selected with 317 items
MacBook Air

You can use Events to your advantage to better organise your photos.

Use Events in iPhoto

Have you organised your Events? They could be more useful than you think…

KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Beginner

TIME NEEDED:
30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Apple iPhoto (iPhoto '09 is £69, part of iLife '09, **http://store.apple.com/uk**)

With *iPhoto* you already have plenty of ways of organising photos, thanks to its Folders, Albums and Smart Albums. So why did Apple bother to include Events? In fact, Events aren't new; they're really an evolution of *iPhoto*'s old 'film rolls'. They're a way of organising the photos you import into logical batches. In a way, they're the closest thing that *iPhoto* has to real-life folders. They're a kind of primary container for your pictures.

iPhoto puts each batch of photos you import into a single Event. Or, if you've chosen this option in the Preferences, it'll Autosplit them by date, so that you get one Event per day, for example. But just because *iPhoto* has created these Events, that doesn't mean you're stuck with them. You can rename, split, merge and organise Events however you want. The only thing you can't do is disable them, though you can just ignore them.

Events aren't quite the same as Albums or Smart Albums. The key difference is that while a photo can be in many different Albums, it can only ever be in one Event. So, while you can use Events for separating pictures into individual outings, holidays and so forth, you could take a different approach and use them for separating black and white photos from colour shots, for example, or work shots from leisure.

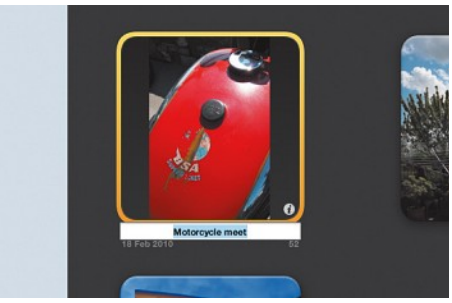
> *"The key difference is that while a photo can be in many different Albums, it can only ever be in one Event"*

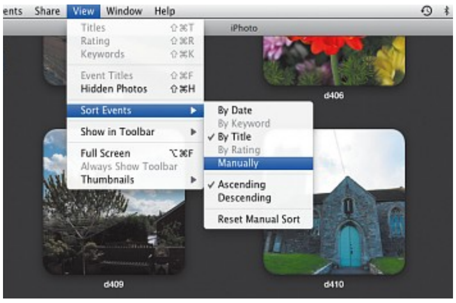
Albums are fine for finding pictures that may match several different criteria, since one photo can be stored in many different places. But they aren't any good for separating pictures that belong either to one category or another – one less obvious use for Events.

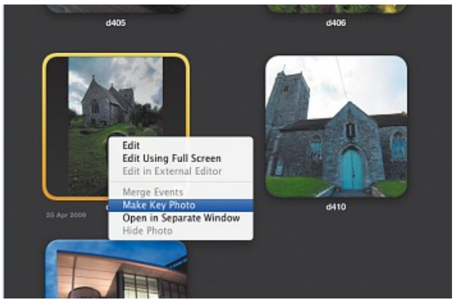
Whether you want to use Events to group pictures chronologically or adapt them into a filing system, this walkthrough shows you everything you need to know to adapt them.

Rod Lawton

HOW TO / Organise Events in iPhoto


Motorcycle meet
18 Feb 2010
52


ents Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Titles
Rating
Keywords
Event Titles
Hidden Photos
Sort Events
Show in Toolbar
Full Screen
Always Show Toolbar
Thumbnails
By Date
By Keyword
By Title
By Rating
Manually
Ascending
Descending
Reset Manual Sort
d406
d409
d410


d405
d406
Edit
Edit Using Full Screen
Edit in External Editor
Merge Events
Make Key Photo
Open in Separate Window
Hide Photo
25 Apr 2009
d410

01 Rename Events

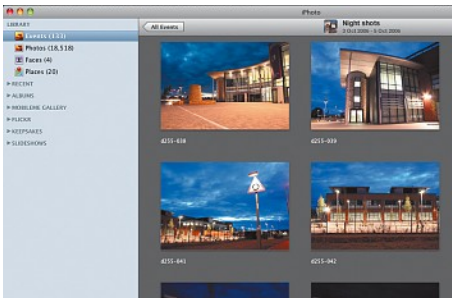
iPhoto auto-assigns photos to a new **Event** as you import them, but you're not stuck with the default **Event** name. To change it, click on the name. Interestingly, you can use the same name twice, so you can have more than one 'Holiday' **Event**, for example.

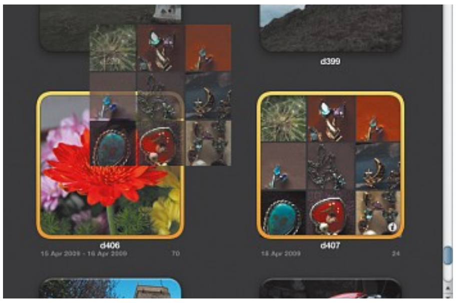
02 Sort Events

To sort **Events** select View > Sort Events. Normally, you'd sort **Events** by date, but if you've worked out your own filing system, you may want to do it alphanumerically instead. Alternatively, the manual sort option could be used to put your favourite **Events** at the top.

03 Skimming and Key Photos

This is one of the big selling points of **Events**. Just move the mouse pointer from side to side across the **Event** thumbnail to view each of the pictures in turn. When you've found one that you like, you can right-click and select it as the **Event**'s thumbnail or **Key Photo**.


iPhoto
LIBRARY
Events (133)
Photos (18,518)
Faces (4)
Places (20)
RECENT
ALBUMS
MOBILEME GALLERY
FLICKR
KEEPSAKES
SLIDESHOWS
All Events
Night shots

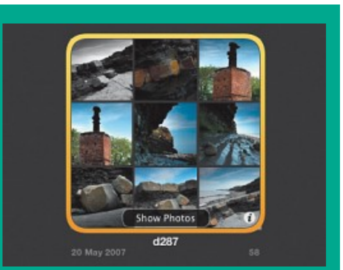

d399
d406
15 Apr 2009 - 16 Apr 2009
70
d407
18 Apr 2009
24

04 View photos in Events

Double-clicking an **Event** displays the photos inside and you can edit them, add them to **Albums** and so on. But note that you are only seeing some of your photos. Either click on the **All Events** button at the top or the **Photos** icon on the left to get back to the main library.

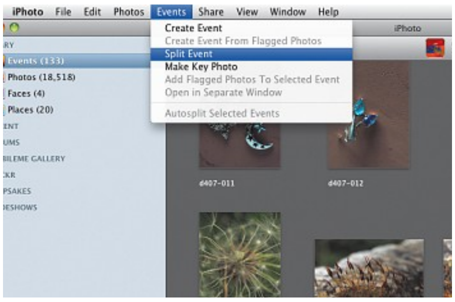
05 Merge Events

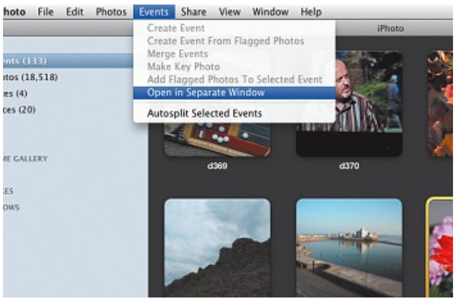
It's easy to move photos between **Events** or to merge or split **Events** themselves. For example, to combine (merge) two **Events**, just drag one onto another. All the photos in the **Event** you're dragging will be added to the other **Event**; the empty one will be deleted.

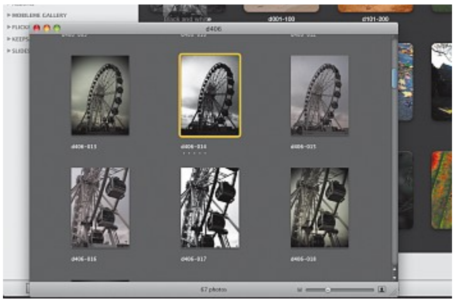

Show Photos
d287
20 May 2007
58

QUICK TIP

Skimming is one way to view photos in **Events**, but there is another. Open *iPhoto*'s **Preferences**, select the **Events** tab then the **Magnify** photo option. **Events** now have a **Show Photos** button, enabling you to view **Event** photos as a collage.


iPhoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Create Event
Create Event From Flagged Photos
Split Event
Make Key Photo
Add Flagged Photos To Selected Event
Open in Separate Window
Autosplit Selected Events
Events (133)
Photos (18,518)
Faces (4)
Places (20)
MOBILEME GALLERY
d407-011
d407-012


hoto File Edit Photos Events Share View Window Help
iPhoto
Create Event
Create Event From Flagged Photos
Merge Events
Make Key Photo
Add Flagged Photos To Selected Event
Open in Separate Window
Autosplit Selected Events
d369
d370


MOBILEME GALLERY
d406

06 Split Events

To split an **Event**, open it, scroll down, select the first photo of the new **Event**, then use Events > Split Event. Alternatively, find and select the photos you want, then use Events > Create Event. The photos will then be moved from their current **Event(s)** into the new one.

07 Open Events in a window

Moving photos between **Events** is more complicated, but only slightly. First, open the **Event** you want to copy photos from with Event > Open in Separate Window. (Unfortunately, it's not currently possible to display a list of **Events** in the left-hand pane.)

08 Move your photos

Now, with the **Event** open in a new window, you can select and drag photos onto a different **Event**. Here, we're moving pictures into a special Black and White **Event** we've created to keep these apart from others. **Events** are an ideal way to separate photos properly. ●

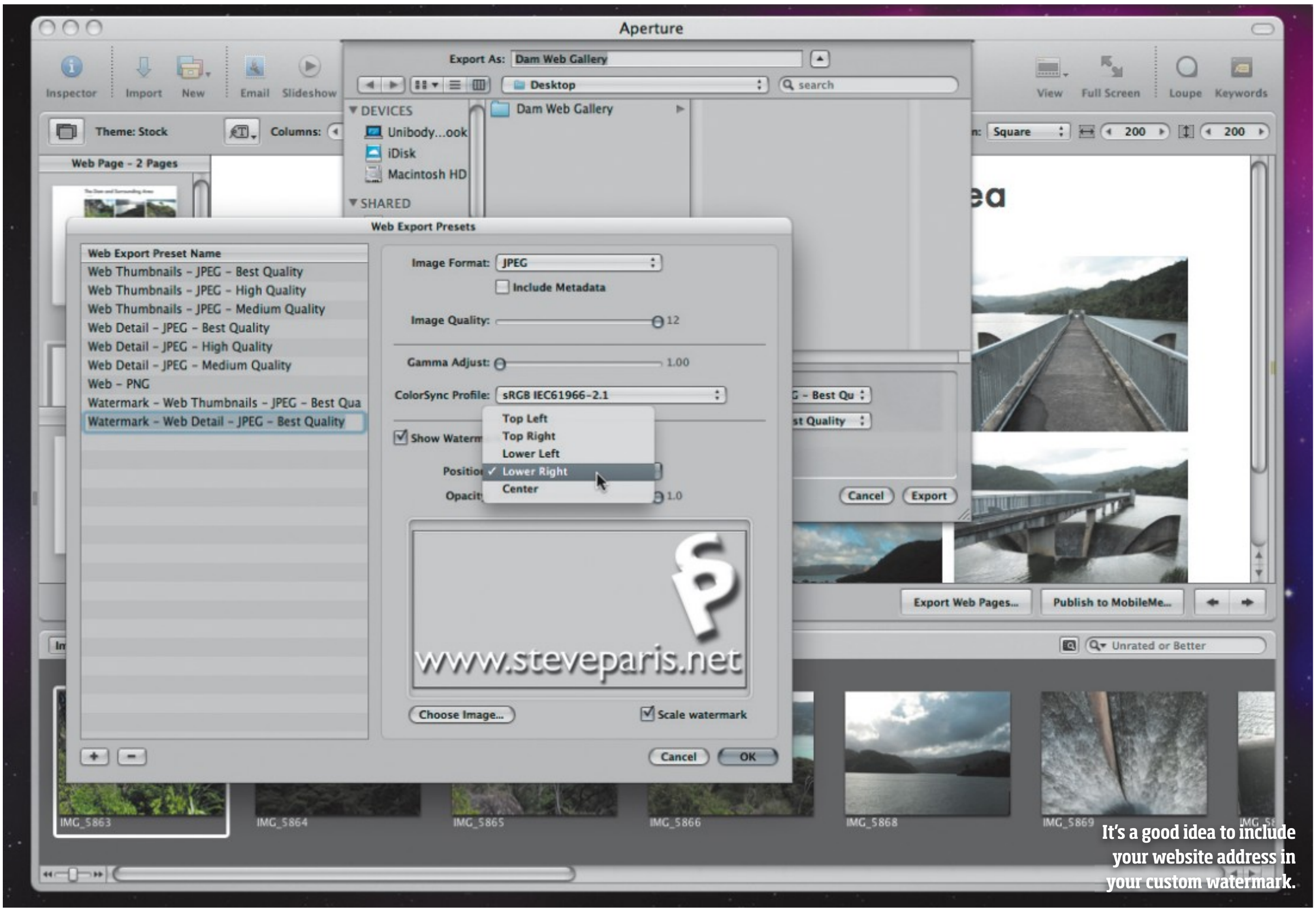

Export As: Dam Web Gallery

Image Format: JPEG

☐ Include Metadata

Image Quality: 12

Gamma Adjust: 1.00

ColorSync Profile: sRGB IEC61966-2.1

☑ Show Watermark

Position: Lower Right

Opacity: 1.0

☑ Scale watermark

Aperture
Inspector
Import
New
Email
Slideshow
View
Full Screen
Loupe
Keywords
Theme: Stock
Columns:
Web Page - 2 Pages
Desktop
search
DEVICES
Unibody...ook
iDisk
Macintosh HD
SHARED
Dam Web Gallery
Square
200
200
Web Export Presets
Web Export Preset Name
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - High Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - High Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web - PNG
Watermark - Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Best Qua
Watermark - Web Detail - JPEG - Best Quality
Top Left
Top Right
Lower Left
✓ Lower Right
Center
www.steveparis.net
Choose Image...
Cancel
OK
Export
Export Web Pages...
Publish to MobileMe...
Unrated or Better
IMG_5863
IMG_5864
IMG_5865
IMG_5866
IMG_5868
IMG_5869

It's a good idea to include your website address in your custom watermark.

Add a watermark to photos

One way to make sure the photos you upload can't be so easily 'borrowed'

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Intermediate

TIME NEEDED: 30 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: Aperture version 2.1.4 or later, photos already stored in its library, graphic package such as Acorn or Pixelmator

Aperture, like its smaller sibling *iPhoto*, has many tools at its disposal to share your photos. For instance, you could design books to offer your friends and clients, but the option that's most immediate is posting your work online. You can publish your shots straight to MobileMe or have *Aperture* design the HTML pages for you so you can upload them to your own website. There are even specific plug-ins designed to help you send your images to other sharing sites, such as Flickr.

But posting images online brings up the problem of ownership. How do you stop people from taking your shots without crediting you properly? If you make a living out of your photography, this can quickly become a major headache.

One solution is of course to limit who gets to see your work on the internet by implementing usage restrictions, but this doesn't help if what you're looking for is exposure.

There's no sure-fire way to stop people from acquiring your shots, but you can make certain that people know who the photo belongs to by embedding a custom watermark in it.

> *"Make certain that people know who the photo belongs to by embedding a custom watermark in it"*

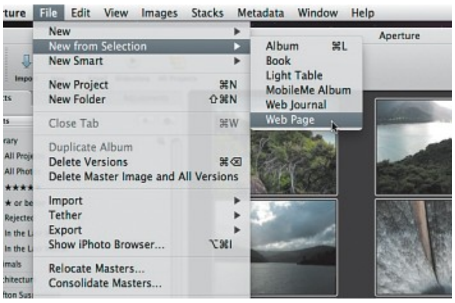
This is actually one advantage that *Aperture* has over *iPhoto*, since it lets you do exactly that.

You would need a graphics package such as *Photoshop* or the more affordable options of *Acorn* and *Pixelmator* to design the watermark itself. It doesn't have to be fancy, just something that makes it obvious who the photo actually belongs to. Saving the image as a PNG will preserve its transparency, making it much easier to blend in with your own shots – although this is by no means compulsory.

Once you've got your watermark ready and saved, it's time to move to *Aperture* and see what you have to do to add it to your photos.

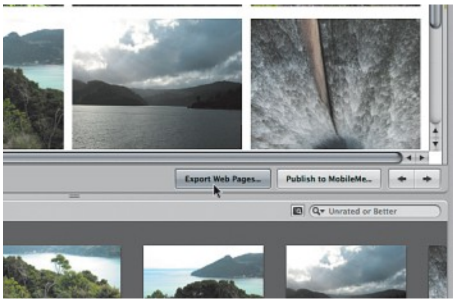
Steve Paris

HOW TO / Create your own watermark


File
Edit
View
Images
Stacks
Metadata
Window
Help
New
New from Selection
New Smart
New Project
New Folder
Close Tab
Duplicate Album
Delete Versions
Delete Master Image and All Versions
Import
Tether
Export
Show iPhoto Browser...
Relocate Masters...
Consolidate Masters...
Album
Book
Light Table
MobileMe Album
Web Journal
Web Page
Aperture

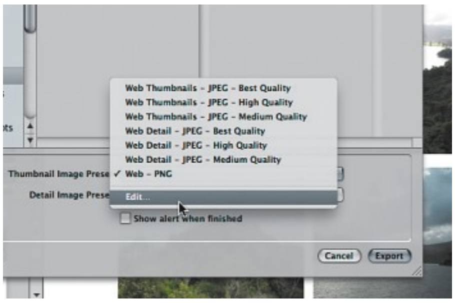
01 Creating a web gallery

Let's start by creating a new web gallery. In *Aperture*, select the shots you'd like to use from one of your projects and go to File > New From Selection > Web Page. You can add more photos later by dragging them onto the web gallery's name in the project's sidebar list.


Export Web Pages...
Publish to MobileMe...
Unrated or Better

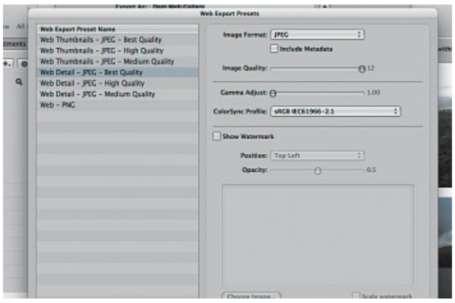
02 Exporting pages

It's time to publish your work. You could click **Publish to MobileMe** if you have an account, but since you're going to be adding your watermark for the first time, let's make sure it works. Click **Export Web Pages** (the same option you'd use to upload to your site).


Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - High Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - High Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Medium Quality
✓ Web - PNG
Edit...
Thumbnail Image Preset
Detail Image Preset
Show alert when finished
Cancel
Export

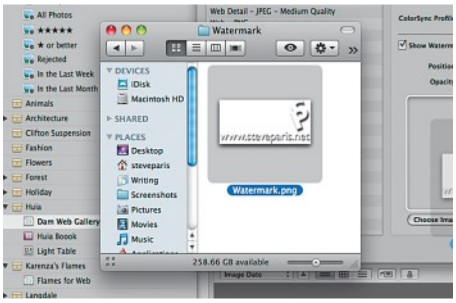
03 Editing presets

A drop-down sheet appears, for you to choose a name for the folder you'll be storing the pages in and to save it. You also have two pop-up menus further down: **Thumbnail Image Preset** and **Detail Image Preset**. Click on either one of them and choose **Edit** from the menu.


Web Export Presets
Web Export Preset Name
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - High Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - High Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web - PNG
Image Format:
JPEG
Include Metadata
Image Quality:
Gamma Adjust:
ColorSync Profile:
sRGB IEC61966-2.1
Show Watermark
Position:
Top Left
Opacity:

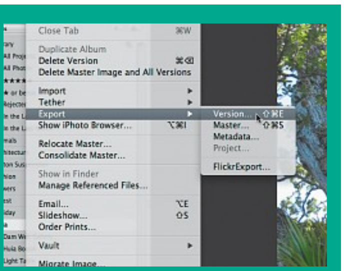
04 Duplication

You're then presented with the **Web Export Presets** window. You could modify an existing preset, but let's play it safe and create a new one instead. Select a preset you'd like to base your settings on first and click on the + button at the bottom-left of the window.


Web Detail - JPEG - Medium Quality
Watermark
DEVICES
iDisk
Macintosh HD
SHARED
PLACES
Desktop
steveparis
Writing
Screenshots
Pictures
Movies
Music
Watermark.png
www.steveparis.net
258.66 GB available
Show Watermark
Choose Image

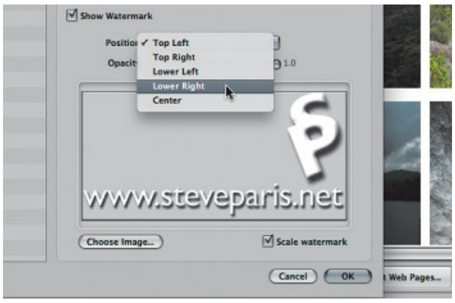
05 Adding the watermark

Tick the **Show Watermark** box. You could then click on the **Choose Image** button and navigate your drive using the usual **Open File** dialog box, but you may find it easier to locate the image via *Finder* and drag it straight onto the window's empty image field instead.


Close Tab
Duplicate Album
Delete Version
Delete Master Image and All Versions
Import
Tether
Export
Show iPhoto Browser...
Relocate Master...
Consolidate Master...
Show in Finder
Manage Referenced Files...
Email...
Slideshow...
Order Prints...
Vault
Migrate Image...
Version...
Master...
Metadata...
Project...
FlickrExport...

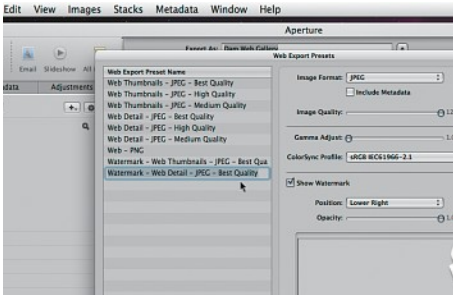
QUICK TIP

You can apply a watermark to any image you like: select a shot and go to File > Export > Version. The **Export Preset** pop-up menu also has an **Edit** command. Select it and follow the same steps as described in this tutorial to add a watermark.


Show Watermark
Position
✓ Top Left
Top Right
Lower Left
Lower Right
Center
Opacity
www.steveparis.net
Choose Image...
Scale watermark
Cancel
OK
Web Pages...

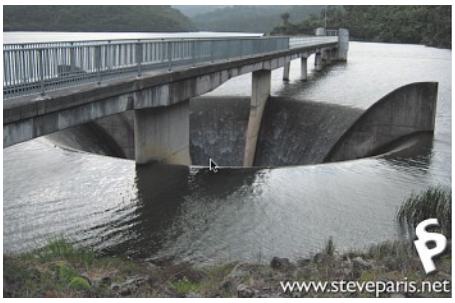
06 Viewing options

Use the slider to alter your image's **Opacity** (to keep it fully opaque, move it all the way to the right). Use the **Position** pop-up menu to choose where to place the watermark. Make sure the **Scale Watermark** box is ticked as this improves the overall effect you're creating.


Edit
View
Images
Stacks
Metadata
Window
Help
Aperture
Web Export Presets
Web Export Preset Name
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - High Quality
Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Best Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - High Quality
Web Detail - JPEG - Medium Quality
Web - PNG
Watermark - Web Thumbnails - JPEG - Best Qua
Watermark - Web Detail - JPEG - Best Quality
Image Format:
JPEG
Include Metadata
Image Quality:
Gamma Adjust:
ColorSync Profile:
sRGB IEC61966-2.1
Show Watermark
Position:
Lower Right
Opacity:

07 Preset selection

You could choose to create a separate preset for both the thumbnail and the main image, or use the same for both. You can also rename your presets by double-clicking them. Once done, click **OK**. Choose the correct presets for each pop-up menu, and click **Export**.


www.steveparis.net

08 Watermark verification

Find the folder you just created and locate the **Index.html** page inside it. Double-click on it to open it in your favourite browser. You can then see how your watermark looks when applied to the thumbnails and shots. If it's what you want, time to upload it to your site! ●

Amazing
Domain Prices

But hurry! Must end December 31st

.eu	€2.95
.mobi	€6.75
.info	€4.95
.im	€4.95
.tel	€15

& so many more

Blacknight.com is an ICANN accredited registrar

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www.blacknight.com

UK: +44 (0)844 484 9361
US: +1 213-233-1612
Intl: +353 (0)59 9183072

BLACKNIGHT SOLUTIONS

X11 Applications Edit Window Help
Toolbox
*_MG_2623.jpg-8.0 (RGB, 1 layer) 2304x3456 – GIMP
File Edit Select View Image Layer Colors Tools Filters Windows Help
Path Tool
Edit Path Attributes...
New Path...
Raise Path
Lower Path
Duplicate Path
Delete Path
Merge Visible Paths
Path to Selection
Add to Selection
Subtract from Selection
Intersect with Selection
Selection to Path
Stroke Path...
Copy Path
Paste Path
Export Path...
Import Path...
Paths Menu
Add Tab
Close Tab
Detach Tab
Lock Tab to Dock
Preview Size
Tab Style
View as List
View as Grid
Show Button Bar
Show Image Selection
Auto Follow Active Image
Layers, Channels,
Brushes
Circle (11) (13 x 13)
Paths
Edit Mode
Design
Edit (Ctrl)
Move (Alt)
Polygonal
Selection from Path
Stroke Path
px
50 %
Background (71.5 MB)
Wed 08:19

GIMP gives you the opportunity to get down and dirty with your images.

Edit your photos for free

It may sound funny, but GIMP is king when it comes to manipulating images

There's nothing like coming in from a long day out and lovingly poring over the photos you've taken on your Mac. But when it comes to editing – the tiny tweaks and changes that can change a photo from an also-ran to a prizewinner – your options are limited. Most likely you have *iPhoto* installed, and although it's an excellent way to organise your photos, it's difficult to make gentle, precise adjustments.

The alternative is Adobe's *Photoshop*. It's such a dependable name in the world of digital photography that it has become a verb, but justifying it requires deep pockets. If you don't have a copy from which you can upgrade, the latest version will cost you more than £600. But it's easy to see why *Photoshop* has become the industry standard: it's fast, stable and enables you to make pixel-by-pixel adjustments to your shots, or image-wide changes that totally alter your pictures. You could always splash out on the cut-down *Photoshop Elements* (£50), but why would you spend anything at all when you can get a fully grown, mature application for free?

> *"Why would you spend anything at all when you can get a fully-grown app for free?"*

Stop laughing at the name: *GIMP* (GNU Image Manipulation Program) has been around since the mid-90s, and has become the open-source community's answer to expensive image-editing software. It's free to download and share, and was originally designed for the home of open-source software, UNIX.

Its UNIX heritage is the only thing that makes getting *GIMP* installed on your Mac tricky – it runs under X11, a non-native environment for applications that uses multiple windows. If you have Leopard or Snow Leopard installed on your Mac you probably don't need to worry, »

»QUICK TIP

The X Window System
XQuartz 2.1.6 (xorg-server 1.4.2-apple33)
Copyright © 2003–2009, Apple Inc.
Copyright © 2003, XFree86 Project, Inc.
Copyright © 2003–2009, X.org Foundation, Inc.

Because *GIMP* runs under X11, when you use the ⌘ button you send a command to the X11 environment. ⌘+W will shut down *GIMP*; so make sure the first keyboard shortcut you learn is ctrl-S!

» QUICK TIP

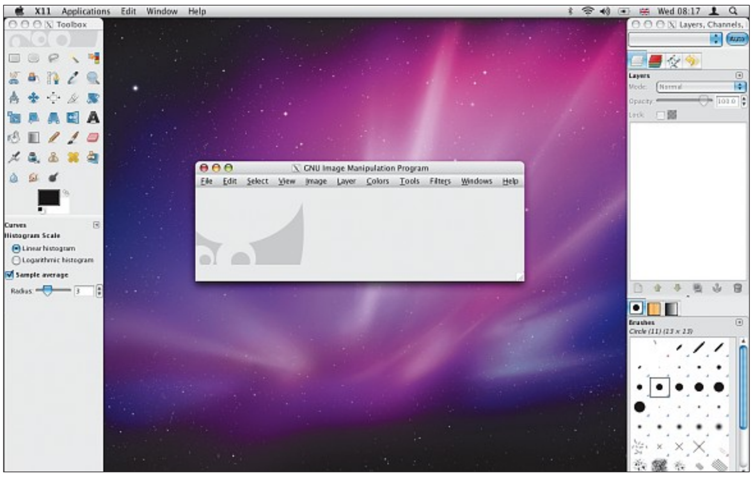
GIMP is massively extendible. There are plug-ins and scripts galore available, enabling you to batch-automate anything from visual effects and save options, to exporting your images straight to the internet. A superb place to start is the *GIMP* Plug-in Registry, which you can find at **http://registry.gimp.org**.

as X11 is a default installation option. If you opted not to install it, or you have Tiger, you'll need your OS X system disc – it's in the Optional Installs folder on the disc. For versions of OS X prior to Tiger such as Panther, you can go to www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/apple/macosx_updates/x11formacosx.html to download X11. It's a simple disc image that requires double-clicking to install, and the process only takes around a minute to complete.

Bring out the GIMP

Once X11 is installed, installing *GIMP* is easy. *GIMP*'s homepage can be found at www.gimp.org, and is a great place to go to pick up hints and tricks. But to download the software you need to go to http://gimp.lisanet.de, which is where you can download *GIMP* for the Mac. Once you've got the 90MB download, installing is a standard affair involving nothing more complicated than dragging *GIMP*'s icon into your Applications folder.

The first hint of *GIMP*'s power comes when you start the application for the first time. You get a window in which to work, plus a pair of toolbars. The one on the left contains the tools of the trade – various brushes and selection tools – while the one on the right gives you control over your image's layers, paths and offers tools for fine-tuning your selected tool.



It may take a little time to get used to the funky interface, but it shouldn't be too difficult.

One small irritation to note is that because it runs on X11, *GIMP*'s window behaviour can be a bit non-standard. For instance, the menu bar lives at the top of the image-editing window, not in the Apple menu bar as usual. Also, clicking File > Quit only closes *GIMP*, not the X11 environment. Finally, if you try to quit X11 while *GIMP* is running, you'll be warned that this will shut down *GIMP* as well. It can take a little getting used to.

> *"One thing to note: because it runs on X11, GIMP's window behaviour can be a bit non-standard"*

To open an image, simply drag and drop a thumbnail from its folder into *GIMP*'s main editing window, or click File > Open. If you do the latter you'll notice the non-standard Open dialog box. *GIMP* is compatible with an impressively long list of image formats, including, naturally, JPEG, but it supports *Photoshop* files and PNG files as well.

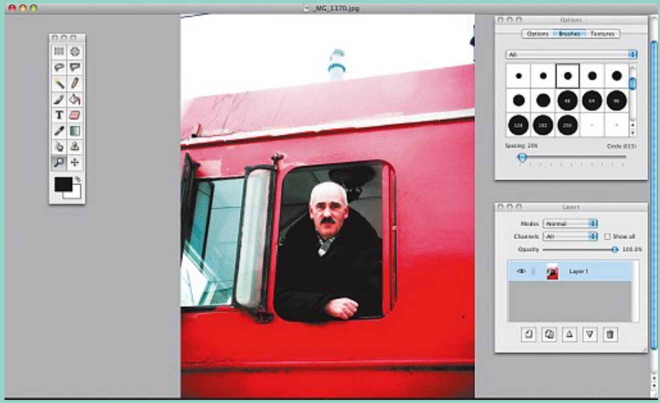
With your image opened, a final niggle is that if you maximise the editing window, both tool windows will be hidden behind it. Getting them back is simple, though: the Tools window can be opened with ctrl + B, and the Layers and Brushes window with ctrl + L.

GIMP's basic features are easy to grasp, but that doesn't mean they aren't powerful. Just like *Photoshop*, virtually every available tool is almost endlessly adjustable. Whenever you select a new tool, keep an eye on the bottom half of the Toolbox, as this is where you can define variables, such as brush size or hardness. For instance, press ⇧ + R and the rotate dialog box opens. Via the Toolbox you can decide whether to have a grid to help you line things up, and whether you want to rotate the entire image,

» SEASHORE / GIMP's little brother

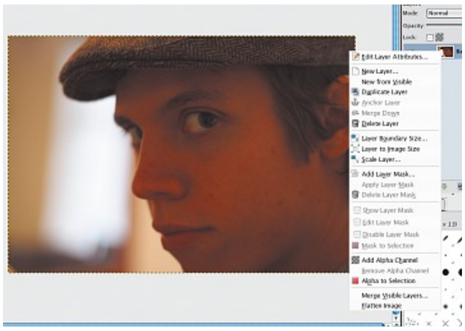
Part of *GIMP*'s appeal is its power, but for those who want something a little simpler, *Seashore* could be the answer. Based on *GIMP*, it's a free, open-source image editor that puts a little less emphasis on heavy-duty tools and more on ease of use. And, unlike *GIMP*, it doesn't rely on X11, so it behaves more like a normal Mac application, making the learning curve far gentler. You can find *Seashore* at **http://seashore.sourceforge.net**.

Despite its claims of being far simpler than *GIMP*, there's still a reasonable amount of power on tap. Standard image-editing tools include cloning, and *Seashore* supports layers as well. Every tool you can choose has a few options that open up, making *Seashore* flexible for those who want to experiment. Spots and imperfections can be made history by *Seashore*'s **Clone Stamp** tool, while **Marquee** and **Lasso** tools enable you to select parts of an image you want to keep. *Seashore* also supports *GIMP*'s native XCF file format. However, there are a number of powerful features *Seashore* lacks compared to *GIMP*. There's no curves control, for instance, nor is there support for the **Script-Fu** automation engine. Neither is there support for paths. Still, it's a good place to start for those daunted by the number of options available in *GIMP*.



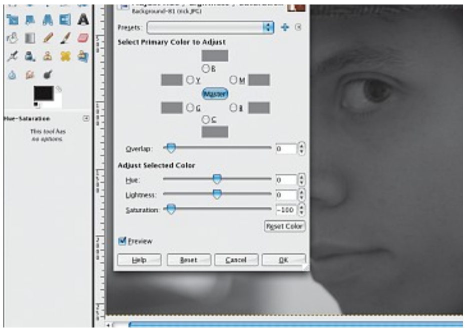
Want to start with something lighter than GIMP? Give Seashore a test-drive.

HOW TO / Create a half-tone effect with GIMP


Edit Layer Attributes...
New Layer...
New from Visible
Duplicate Layer
Anchor Layer
Merge Down
Delete Layer
Layer Boundary Size...
Layer to Image Size
Scale Layer...
Add Layer Mask...
Apply Layer Mask
Delete Layer Mask
Show Layer Mask
Edit Layer Mask
Disable Layer Mask
Mask to Selection
Add Alpha Channel
Remove Alpha Channel
Alpha to Selection
Merge Visible Layers...
Flatten Image

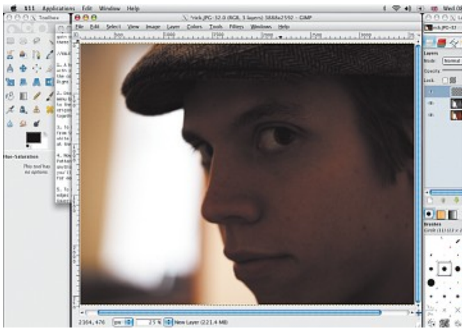
01 Layer duplication

A half-tone effect works most effectively on portraits, so choose a shot with strong colours and a bit of personality. First, we're going to change the colours by duplicating the layer and applying an effect. Right-click (or ctrl-click) on the first layer and select **Duplicate Layer**.


Select Primary Color to Adjust
Master
Adjust Selected Color
Hue:
Lightness:
Saturation:
Reset Color
Preview
Help
Reset
Cancel
OK

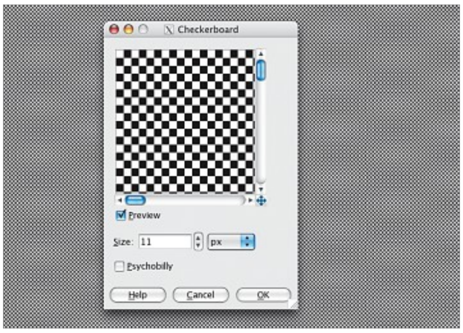
02 Adjust saturation

De-saturate your new layer by selecting it, then going to **Colors** on the menu bar. Select **Hue-Saturation** and drag the **Saturation** slider all the way to the left. Your image will turn black and white and obscure the original. Now to blend the two images and create a moody effect…



03 Blend images

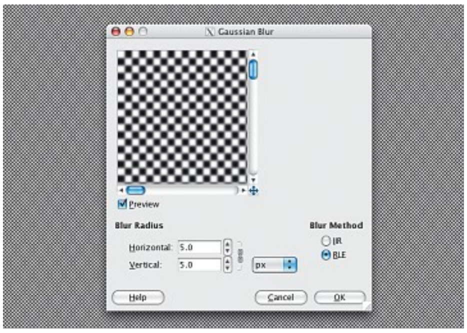
To blend the images together, select your new image and choose **Hard light** from the **Mode** drop-down list. Now create a new layer by clicking the plain white piece of paper at the bottom of the **Layers** panel. Leave the settings at their defaults and click **OK**.


Checkerboard
Preview
Psychobilly
Help
Cancel
OK

Size: 11 px

04 Checkerboard

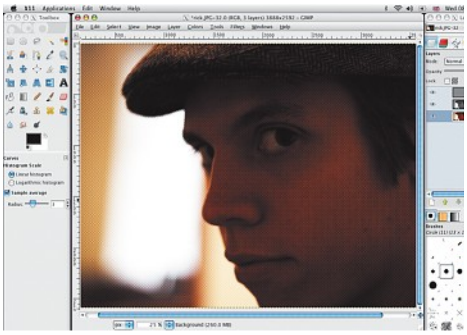
Click **Filters** on the menu bar, select **Render**, then **Pattern**, then **Checkerboard**. The only option to worry about here is **Size** – too small and your half-tone won't be noticeable; too big and you'll lose subtlety.


Gaussian Blur
Preview
Blur Radius
Blur Method
IIR
RLE
Help
Cancel
OK

Horizontal: 5.0
Vertical: 5.0
px

05 Gaussian Blur

Now to blur the edges of each square of the checkerboard. Go to **Filters**, then **Blur**, then **Gaussian Blur**. We don't want to cause our checkerboard squares to bleed into each other, so we'll set the **Blur Radius** to 5 pixels.



06 Image assembly

Finally, assemble the final image by selecting a **Mode** on the **Layers** panel. Here we've used **Overlay**, but feel free to experiment. Each mode offers various brightness effects – see what works with your images. ●

the part you've selected, or transform a path. Likewise, ⇧+C enables you to crop your image, and the **Toolbox** offers you a choice of locking your crop to an aspect ratio, which is useful when cutting down a picture you intend to print.

More complex tools make an appearance as well. If your images suffer from barrel distortion, for instance, you can use the **Perspective Tool** (⇧+P). Simply click on all four corners of your image and you can 'tilt' it towards or away from you to straighten it. It's useful for wide-angle photographs of tall buildings, and is an impressive demonstration of *GIMP*'s power.

GIMP offers other standard photographic tools as well. Go to **Colors** on the menu bar, then click **Curves** to open a dialog box that will be familiar to any *Photoshop* user. You can adjust the tones in your image by clicking and dragging the diagonal line – to get started, click about a third from the beginning and drag down, then click about a third from the end and drag up, creating an 'S' shape.

"Apply effects to images quickly by selecting Filters from the menu bar"

This immediately produces an image with more impact and deeper colours. And, once you've got an image curve that produces reliable results, you can save your curve as a preset – the first step towards batch-editing your files.

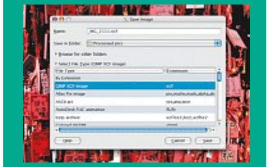
Filtered reality

Another way to apply effects to images quickly is to select **Filters** from the menu bar. This is a comprehensive group of automated actions that affect your entire image. Some are rather flamboyant for most uses, but others, such as **Old Photo** (under **Décor**), add gorgeous effects to an image, and some, like the **Noise Generator** (under **Noise**), can »

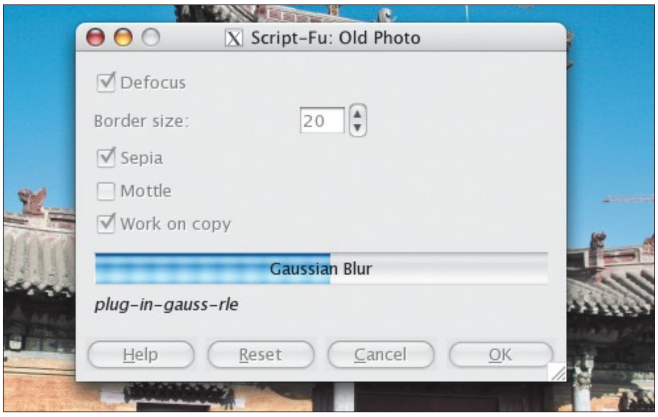
QUICK TIP

Click on the small **cross** icon where the horizontal and vertical scrollbars meet at the bottom-right of your image to access a zoomable preview window of your image.

QUICK TIP



Remember that every time you re-save a JPEG you degrade its quality slightly. Initially, save it as a non-compressed TIFF or XCF (GIMP) file, then work on it. When you're finished, then save it as a JPEG.



Script-Fu: Old Photo

☑ Defocus

Border size: 20

☑ Sepia

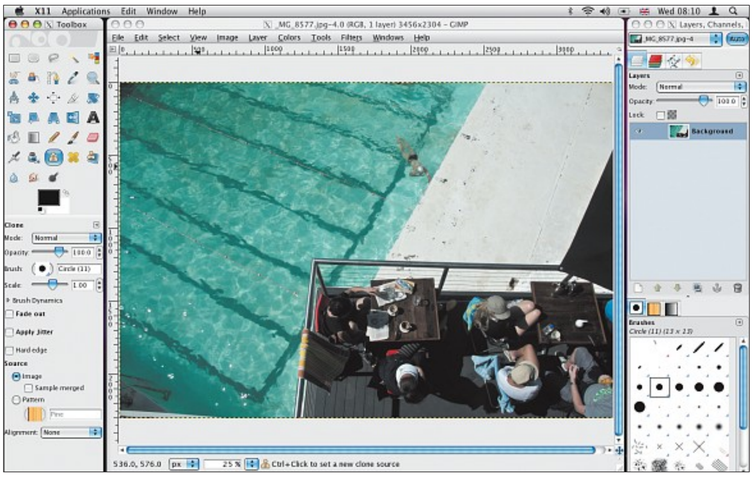
☐ Mottle

☑ Work on copy

Gaussian Blur

plug-in-gauss-rle

GIMP's Script-Fu engine enables you to automate tasks for faster image manipulation.



X11 Applications Edit Window Help
Toolbox
_MG_8577.jpg-4.0 (RGB, 1 layer) 3456x2304 – GIMP
File Edit Select View Image Layer Colors Tools Filters Windows Help
Layers, Channels,
Layers
Mode: Normal
Opacity
Lock
Background
Brushes
Circle (11) (13 × 13)
Clone
Fade out
Apply Jitter
Hard edge
Source
Image
Sample merged
Pattern
Alignment: None
Ctrl+Click to set a new clone source

If you're familiar with Photoshop's Actions, GIMP's Script-Fu engine will be a boon for you.

completely change the feel of your images in a few clicks. This is also where you'll find handy photographic tools such as **Sharpen**.

Some of the filters you can apply are powered by *GIMP*'s **Script-Fu** engine. If you're familiar with *Photoshop*'s **Actions** capability – in which you can record yourself performing a series of tasks, then apply the tasks in the same order to any subsequent image – you get the idea. **Script-Fu** enables you to automate tasks, and if you're feeling adventurous, you can create your own scripts, although it's a text-based system and a complex one at that. This is where *GIMP*'s vibrant open-source community comes in handy, as there are hundreds of **Script-Fu** procedures freely available to download from the internet.

Once you're done, there are dozens of ways to save your files. Of course, you can save them as JPEGs, or, if you want to avoid compression and keep any layers that you've added, you can do so by saving them as *Photoshop* files (PSD). But for files you intend to work on later, or don't mean to share with anyone, *GIMP* enables you to save with its own proprietary format, XCF. This is easily *GIMP*'s most powerful image format, since it saves everything about your images except their undo history.

> *"XCF is GIMP's most powerful image format, since it saves everything about your images"*

GIMP is simply a massive program, and the fact that it's free is a little short of amazing. There are a few problems to bear in mind, though. It uses a lot of non-standard windows and windows furniture, so dialog boxes – such as the **Open** and **Save** boxes – take some getting used to. And, because it runs in X11, certain commands such as **minimise** can produce unexpected results. It's also slower than *Photoshop*, particularly when applying complicated **Script-Fu** effects to large images.

There are reasonable alternatives, such as *Seashore*, as well as many free online editors including *Photoshop Express* (**www.photoshop.com**) and the brilliant *Picnik* (**www.picnik.com**). But while these applications are excellent for at-a-stroke changes to an image, *GIMP* enables you to tinker to your heart's content, and is by far the better free choice for anyone who's keen to learn professional image-editing techniques, or intends to print their images at punishingly large sizes.

Freedom to explore

With all that power in mind, it takes a long time to come to terms with the fact that *GIMP* is completely free. It isn't time-limited and it certainly isn't missing any major features. Getting started is the most complicated bit, and once you gain some confidence – and get used to some of *GIMP*'s habits – there's plenty of reward to be had through exploring.

Dave Stevenson

APP DILEMMA / Should you buy Photoshop Elements?

As much as we love *GIMP*, *Photoshop Elements* is hard to ignore. It will cost around £50 for version 6, but you do get some definite advantages compared to *GIMP*. For a start, Adobe's application behaves perfectly with OS X, and so doesn't need the occasionally problematic X11 environment. You also get another very obvious benefit – powerful library and organisational features. Using these, you can keep track of your pictures, adding tags as you go, and then edit them in the same application. You also get Adobe's spectacular photo-editing heritage, cleverly wrapped up into an application designed for those who don't want – or don't need – the per-pixel editing you get with *GIMP* or the full-blown version of *Photoshop*. *Elements* enables you to create compositions without needing to worry about layers, and has an automated panorama mode. And for bigger jobs, there are still high-end features such as batch processing. So is it worth the money? If you're an occasional snapper, probably. *Elements* is simple to use and reasonably priced. But if you're serious about learning the intricacies of digital photography, you get far more fine-grained control with *GIMP*. And, if the lack of an image library application is off-putting, you could always throw your lot in with *iPhoto*, or Google's free *Picasa*, available at **www.google.com/picasa**.

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iMovie File Edit View Text Share Window Help
Steve Paris
iMovie
Project Library
Project – Grand Tourism
39s – 2-12 I'm Going Slightly Mad
First Stop, "Africa"
Tiger Calls
17s – 12 DARE
Tired Rhinos
0.6s from clip start – 9:09 total
Event Library
Last Import
iPhoto Videos
2009
Grand Cayman
2008
Zaca Lake
Return to the Zoo
Auckland Zoo
La Mer
Scuba Diving
2007
Snowboarding
Show: Favorites and Unmarked
8:07 total
MacBook Pro

Add chapters for your movie audience and some comments for yourself.

Add chapters and comments

Chapter markers are back for your movies and they're more useful than ever

» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY: Beginner

TIME NEEDED: 20 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED: iMovie '09 version 8.0.4 or later, an existing project to work with, a basic knowledge of the iMovie interface

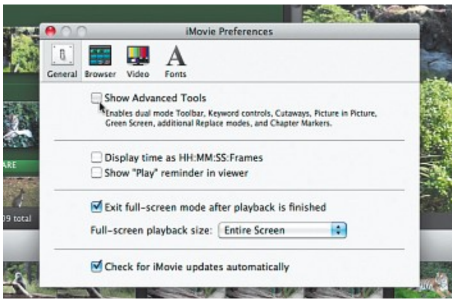
Many features (from special video effects to precision audio editing) were lost when Apple released *iMovie '08*. This caused a lot of advanced users to criticise the decision to revamp the program from scratch. *iMovie* was re-imagined to focus on novice editors, people who up until that point may have considered trimming their home movies, but never got round to it due to the apparent complexity of the software at their disposal. Those advanced users may like to deny it, but *iMovie '06* proved intimidating to many newbies, which is the last thing an *iLife* program should be. So it was out with the old and in with an impressive new editing idea.

One feature dropped at the time was the ability to add chapter markers to your movie, which could then be recognised by *iDVD* to automatically build a chapter index page and help you navigate to the right part of your film. Apple replaced it with an incredibly basic feature in *iDVD*, which enabled it to place markers at specific intervals irrespective of what was going on in the movie itself. Even though Apple was losing interest in physical media, those who still relied on it were, again, less than pleased.

> *"iMovie '06 proved intimidating to many newbies, which is the last thing an iLife program should be"*

Thankfully, *iMovie '09* brings chapter markers back, although you wouldn't know it by looking at the default options: you need to toggle the advanced tools in order to make use of them. You'll also be pleased to know that once they're available, adding chapter markers is much easier than it was in *iMovie '06*. You can even add notes to your project, for instance, to remind you to alter something at a later date. Those comments won't appear anywhere on your exported film – just in *iMovie '09*. This tutorial will show you how to make the most of these features. **Steve Paris**

HOW TO / Add chapter markers in iMovie


iMovie Preferences
General
Browser
Video
Fonts

☐ Show Advanced Tools
Enables dual mode Toolbar, Keyword controls, Cutaways, Picture in Picture, Green Screen, additional Replace modes, and Chapter Markers.

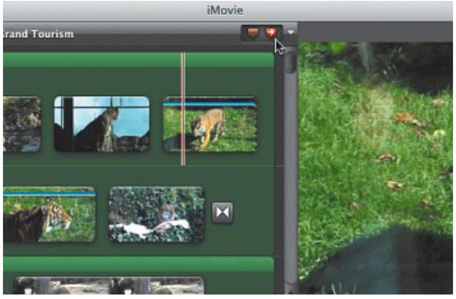
☐ Display time as HH:MM:SS:Frames
☐ Show "Play" reminder in viewer

☑ Exit full-screen mode after playback is finished
Full-screen playback size: Entire Screen

☑ Check for iMovie updates automatically

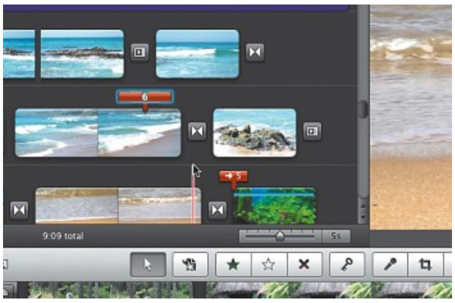
01 Change the Preferences

First of all, open *iMovie's* **Preferences**, accessed either by clicking on the menu bar's *iMovie* menu and choosing the appropriate option, or by using the ⌘+, keyboard shortcut. In that window's **General** section, make sure **Show Advanced Tools** is ticked.


iMovie
rand Tourism

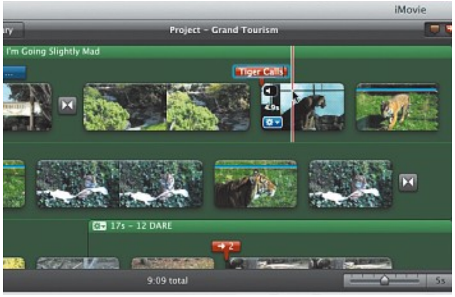
02 Reveal new tools

Close the **Preferences** window and you'll notice the two new buttons that have appeared at the top-right of *iMovie's* project section: one is brown and the other red with a white arrow inside it. These are the **Comment** and **Chapter** marker tools, respectively.


6
5
9:09 total
5s

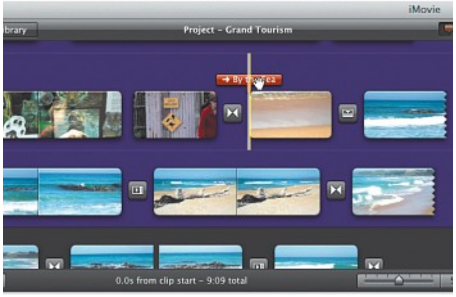
03 Drag and drop

To use them, drag them onto a desired location somewhere in your project. Whether you add a **Comment** or **Chapter** marker, *iMovie* will automatically number them: the first one will be 1, the second 2 and so on. (The numbers bear no relation to their position in your film.)


iMovie
Project – Grand Tourism
I'm Going Slightly Mad
Tiger Calls
17s – 12 DARE
2
9:09 total
5s

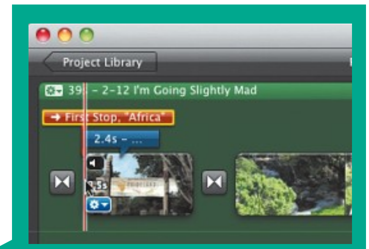
04 Rename the markers

As soon as a marker has been added, its name is automatically highlighted, ready to be altered: just start typing. This isn't your only opportunity to rename it, though. If you forget to do it or simply change your mind, double-click on the current name to edit it once again.


iMovie
Project – Grand Tourism
By the Sea
0.0s from clip start – 9:09 total

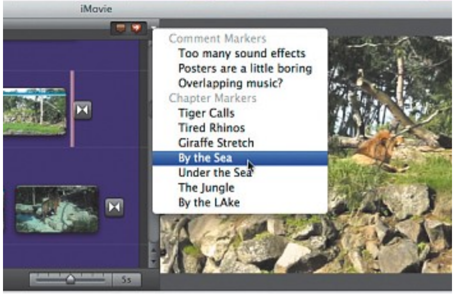
05 Relocate the markers

You can move your markers around your clips (though this won't work if you're editing its name, so hit ↩ first): mouse over one of them to turn the cursor into a hand. When that happens, simply drag the marker to the location of your choosing.


Project Library
39 – 2–12 I'm Going Slightly Mad
First Stop, 'Africa'
2.4s

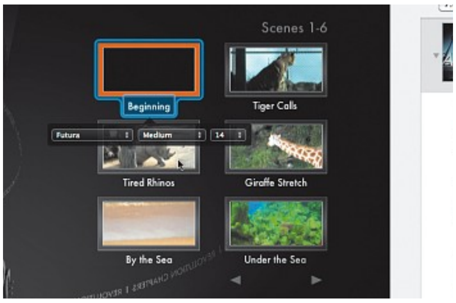
QUICK TIP

Don't forget to add a chapter marker at the start of your film, otherwise *iMovie* will add one for you and call it 'Beginning', which may not suit your needs. Also, if you add a chapter near a title then that chapter will automatically take on the title's name - a useful timesaver.


iMovie
Comment Markers
Too many sound effects
Posters are a little boring
Overlapping music?
Chapter Markers
Tiger Calls
Tired Rhinos
Giraffe Stretch
By the Sea
Under the Sea
The Jungle
By the LAke
5s

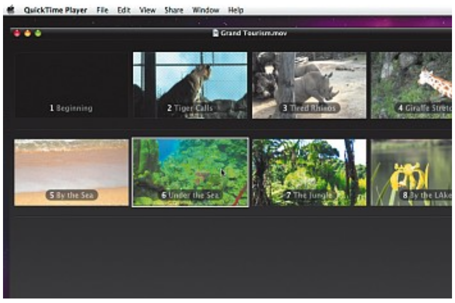
06 View the marker list

It's just as easy to delete a marker: click on one to select it (the marker gets highlighted in yellow) and then hit the ⌫ key. To the right of the section where those marker buttons are is a small **white triangle**. Click it and it lists all your markers. To go to one, select it from here.


Scenes 1-6
Beginning
Tiger Calls
Futura
Medium
14
Tired Rhinos
Giraffe Stretch
By the Sea
Under the Sea

07 Physical media

Use the **Share** menu to export your footage to *iDVD*. *iMovie* will convert your film and *iDVD* will create a **play** button linked to your footage, as well as a **chapter index**. You can still edit those markers by opening the latter and double-clicking on one of the menus.


QuickTime Player
File
Edit
View
Share
Window
Help
Grand Tourism.mov
1 Beginning
2 Tiger Calls
3 Tired Rhinos
4 Giraffe Stretc
5 By the Sea
6 Under the Sea
7 The Jungle
8 By the LAke

08 Digital files

Those markers aren't just for DVDs: go back to *iMovie's* **Share** menu and choose another option, such as *iTunes*, **MobileMe Gallery** or *QuickTime Player*. Open up this new file when it's ready and you'll see that all your chapter markers are preserved and usable. ●

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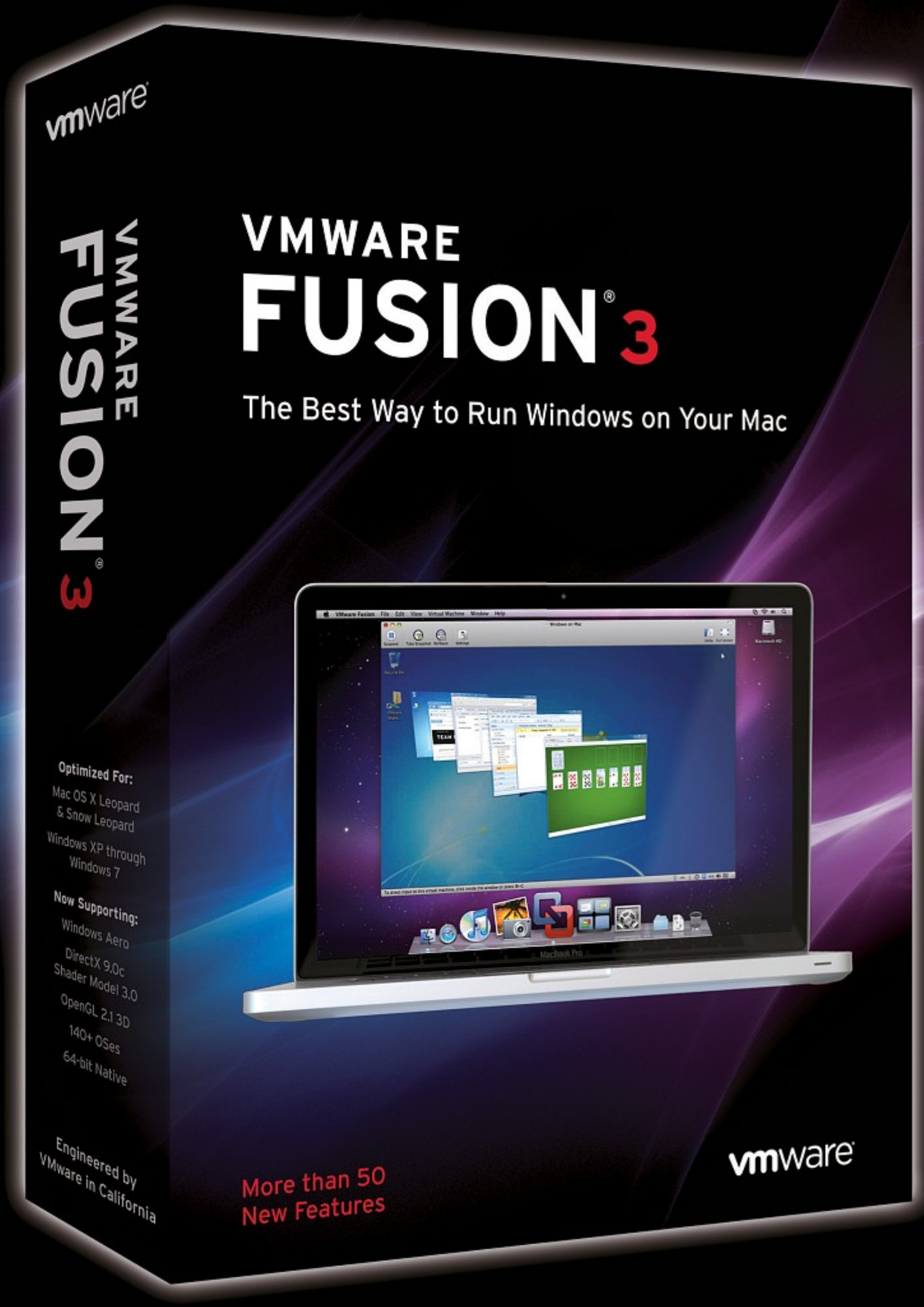
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Macintosh HD
To return to your computer, press Control-⌘

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- OpenGL 2.1 3D
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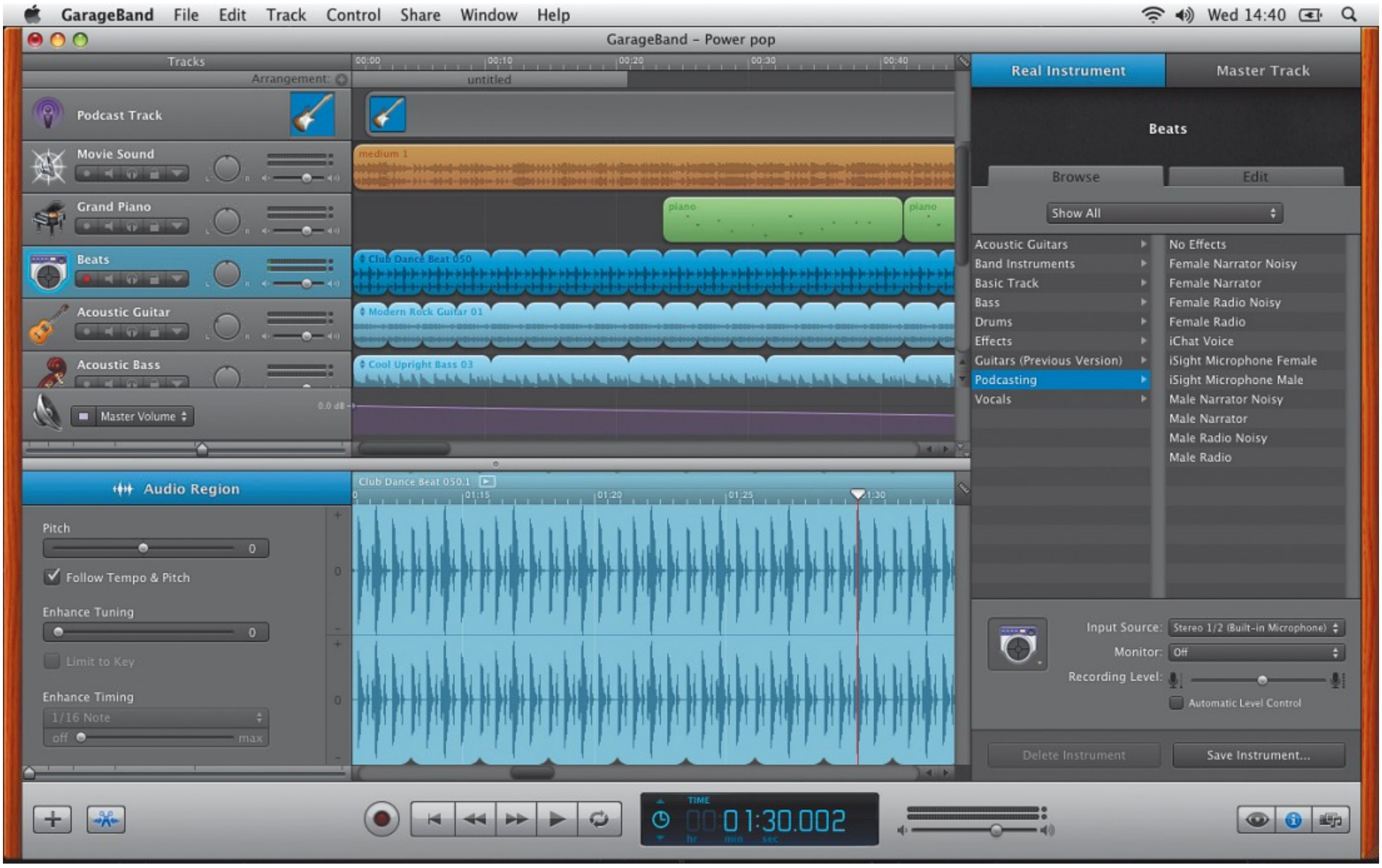

GarageBand File Edit Track Control Share Window Help
Wed 14:40
GarageBand – Power pop
Tracks
Arrangement:
untitled
Podcast Track
Movie Sound
Grand Piano
Beats
Acoustic Guitar
Acoustic Bass
Master Volume
medium 1
piano
Club Dance Beat 050
Modern Rock Guitar 01
Cool Upright Bass 03
Audio Region
Club Dance Beat 050.1
Pitch
Follow Tempo & Pitch
Enhance Tuning
Limit to Key
Enhance Timing
1/16 Note
off
max
Real Instrument
Master Track
Beats
Browse
Edit
Show All
Acoustic Guitars
Band Instruments
Basic Track
Bass
Drums
Effects
Guitars (Previous Version)
Podcasting
Vocals
No Effects
Female Narrator Noisy
Female Narrator
Female Radio Noisy
Female Radio
iChat Voice
iSight Microphone Female
iSight Microphone Male
Male Narrator Noisy
Male Narrator
Male Radio Noisy
Male Radio
Input Source: Stereo 1/2 (Built-in Microphone)
Monitor: Off
Recording Level:
Automatic Level Control
Delete Instrument
Save Instrument...
TIME
01:30.002

GarageBand comes with all the tools you need to create podcasts and put together jingles and backing tracks.

Make a podcast jingle

Creating backing tracks and jingles for podcasts is easy with GarageBand

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
45 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
A copy of GarageBand, the bundled Apple Loops installed, some speakers or headphones to preview the music

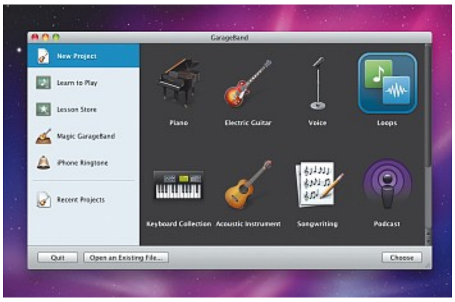
Even the term 'podcasting' is testament to the way Apple's iPod defined an entire online phenomenon – the process of creating your own downloadable audio shows. Of course, people listen to podcasts on all kinds of devices, but the name has stuck. With *GarageBand*, Apple provided a way for Mac users to record and produce music, but also to produce their own podcasts. It is, after all, much the same as producing a radio show, combining pre-recorded and spoken word audio with music tracks, and using editing techniques such as cuts and fades.

Simply sticking a commercial track from your *iTunes* library in the background of a podcast is easy enough but it has drawbacks. First, if you're going to be distributing it online, there are licensing issues to contend with unless you have permission to use the music. Second, it's better to create your own music so that the podcast truly has your identity stamped on it. Luckily, *GarageBand* comes with a large selection of Apple Loops that can be dropped in quickly to easily create music tracks. These will often be installed by default with *iLife* and, if they're missing, can be downloaded for free. Once you've identified some loops and built a track by dropping them into a project, you can add effects, mix them together and create a fade in and out to provide a great intro and outro for your podcasts. They can be used not just for jingles but also for music beds that play underneath your speech to help fill out the sound of the podcast. The loops have been created to fit to any tempo, and display key information so they're easy to match up. If you have *GarageBand* then the tools are at your fingertips, so read on to find out how it's done…

> *"It's better to create your own music so that the podcast truly has your identity stamped on it"*

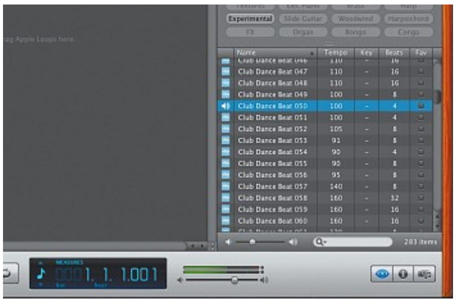
Hollin Jones

HOW TO / Create a podcast jingle in GarageBand


GarageBand
New Project
Learn to Play
Lesson Store
Magic GarageBand
iPhone Ringtone
Recent Projects
Piano
Electric Guitar
Voice
Loops
Keyboard Collection
Acoustic Instrument
Songwriting
Podcast
Quit
Open an Existing File...
Choose

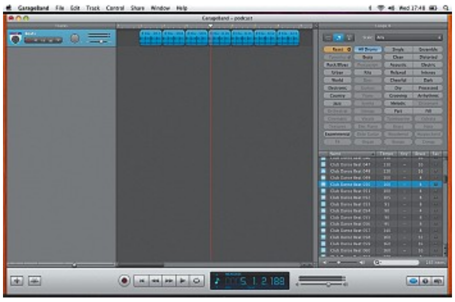
01 Load up a project

Create a new project and set a master tempo to suit the tone of the podcast. Go uptempo at around 120 for a dynamic feel, or go slower for a laidback effect. You can change the tempo later and any **Apple Loops** you've used will follow and adjust to the new speed.



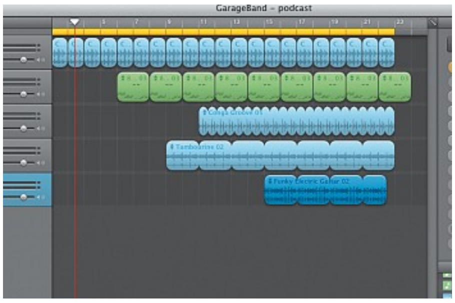
02 Audition some loops

Having chosen the **Loops** option for a new project, you should see a blank canvas plus the **Loop Browser** open on the right. It can be a good idea to start with a beat, so click on the **All Drums** button. Then, from the list of beats that appears, click on any one to audition it.



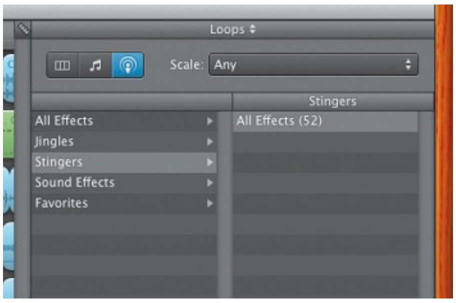
03 Drag and drop

When you find a beat you like, drag and drop it into the main project area and a track will be created. To duplicate a loop, hold ⌥ and drag it or use Edit > Copy and then **Paste**. Or, hover the mouse over the top-right corner of the end of the loop and drag it to the right.


GarageBand – podcast

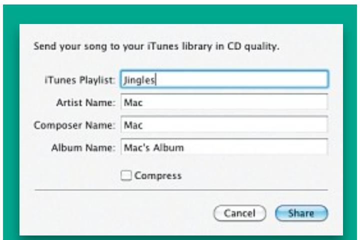
04 Find more loops

Activate **looping** from the **Transport** bar and use the yellow bar to create a loop. Go back to the **Loop Browser** and find more loops that work well with your first. Repeat the above steps to build up a track, dragging, dropping and duplicating. Everything will stay in time.


Loops
Scale: Any
All Effects
Jingles
Stingers
Sound Effects
Favorites
Stingers
All Effects (52)

05 Add some sound effects

It's not just music loops that you can add. Click on the podcast icon at the top of the **Loop Browser** to go to the **Podcast loops** tab. Choose a one-shot effect to drop in at a good place – maybe at the beginning. Overlap it with the start of the beat for a smooth transition.



Send your song to your iTunes library in CD quality.

iTunes Playlist: Jingles

Artist Name: Mac

Composer Name: Mac

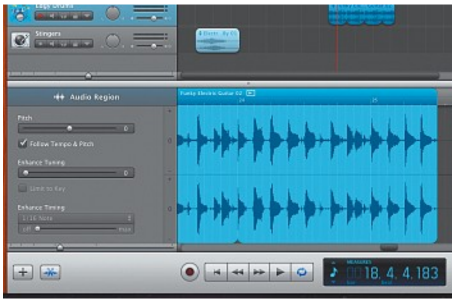
Album Name: Mac's Album

☐ Compress

Cancel
Share

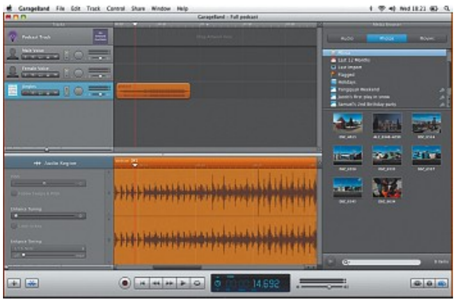
QUICK TIP

Make any project into a podcast by adding a podcast track and using one or more tracks to record a voice in addition to music loops. By exporting the music as a single stereo file and re-importing to a new podcast project, however, you minimise clutter.


Audio Region
18. 4. 4. 183

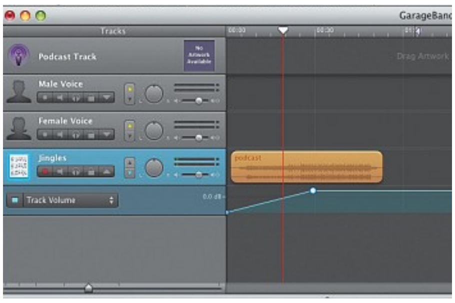
06 Mix the track

Once you've decided on a structure by building up loops, use the sliders to adjust the volume. Also add effects by going to the **Track Info** tab and choosing them from the **Browser**. When you're done, choose Share > Send Song to iTunes, unchecking the **Compress** options.



07 Re-import the jingle

Open *iTunes*, locate the track and drag it to the Desktop. Now start a new *GarageBand* project, choosing the **Podcast** preset. Drag your jingle to the podcast track in the new project. Now it's a single, mixed audio file, which is easy to work with. Put it at the start of the project.


GarageBand
Tracks
Podcast Track
Male Voice
Female Voice
Jingles
Track Volume

08 Make a fade in

Click the triangle to reveal the **volume automation lane**. Click its activate button and drag the first keypoint down to **zero**. Click to add a second keypoint further along, dragging up to create a fade in. Repeat, reversing to fade out. Now record your voice over the backing track.

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>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Beginner

TIME NEEDED
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Internet access,
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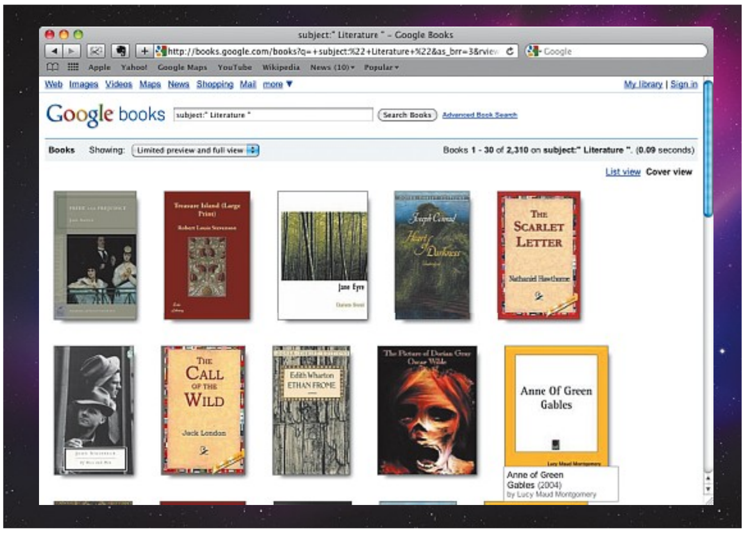
(free download,
www.adobe.com/products/digitaleditions),
Voluminous
(£15, with free trial period,
http://voluminous.wooji-juice.com),
Eucalyptus
(£5.99 from the iTunes App Store, for more information see
http://eucalyptusapp.com)

Google did a remarkable thing in August this year, making more than a million books available for free download. Through their Google Books site (http://books.google.com), it was already possible to search through that number of books online. But only a selected few were available for download as PDF documents. However, now you can download books in the EPUB format, which can be read on a host of portable devices, including Amazon's Kindle and Sony's Reader, as well as several applications that are available for your iPhone or iPod touch.

Of course, Google releasing this huge number of books is extraordinary. And it changes things for the world of ebooks – as well as for publishing as a whole. But the reality is that the Google Books site can be fiddly. While the online reader is good, it's not actually all that easy to find which books are available for free download. And they're not the first provider of free ebooks: Project Gutenberg (http://gutenberg.org) has been producing copyright-free texts since 1971.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Apple
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Google Maps
YouTube
Wikipedia
News (10)
Popular
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My library
Sign in
Google books
subject:" Literature "
Search Books
Advanced Book Search
Books
Showing:
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Nathaniel Hawthorne
The Call of the Wild
Jack London
Edith Wharton
Ethan Frome
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Oscar Wilde
Anne Of Green Gables
Anne of Green Gables (2004)
by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Google Books has made an extraordinary number of books available to readers.

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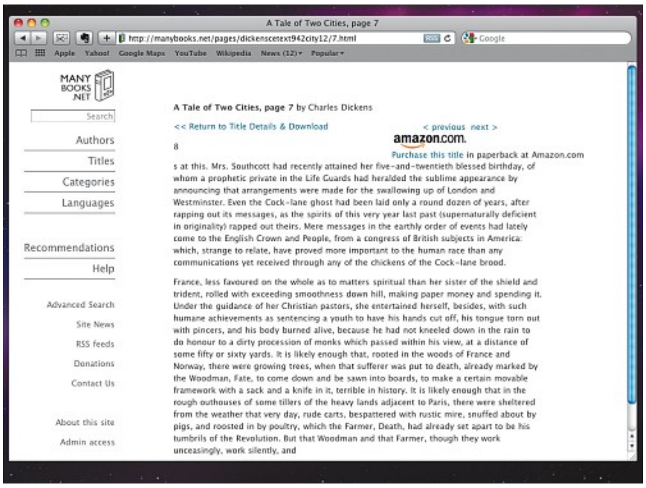
A Tale of Two Cities, page 7
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A Tale of Two Cities, page 7 by Charles Dickens

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8

s at this. Mrs. Southcott had recently attained her five-and-twentieth blessed birthday, of whom a prophetic private in the Life Guards had heralded the sublime appearance by announcing that arrangements were made for the swallowing up of London and Westminster. Even the Cock-lane ghost had been laid only a round dozen of years, after rapping out its messages, as the spirits of this very year last past (supernaturally deficient in originality) rapped out theirs. Mere messages in the earthly order of events had lately come to the English Crown and People, from a congress of British subjects in America: which, strange to relate, have proved more important to the human race than any communications yet received through any of the chickens of the Cock-lane brood.

France, less favoured on the whole as to matters spiritual than her sister of the shield and trident, rolled with exceeding smoothness down hill, making paper money and spending it. Under the guidance of her Christian pastors, she entertained herself, besides, with such humane achievements as sentencing a youth to have his hands cut off, his tongue torn out with pincers, and his body burned alive, because he had not kneeled down in the rain to do honour to a dirty procession of monks which passed within his view, at a distance of some fifty or sixty yards. It is likely enough that, rooted in the woods of France and Norway, there were growing trees, when that sufferer was put to death, already marked by the Woodman, Fate, to come down and be sawn into boards, to make a certain movable framework with a sack and a knife in it, terrible in history. It is likely enough that in the rough outhouses of some tillers of the heavy lands adjacent to Paris, there were sheltered from the weather that very day, rude carts, bespattered with rustic mire, snuffed about by pigs, and roosted in by poultry, which the Farmer, Death, had already set apart to be his tumbrils of the Revolution. But that Woodman and that Farmer, though they work unceasingly, work silently, and

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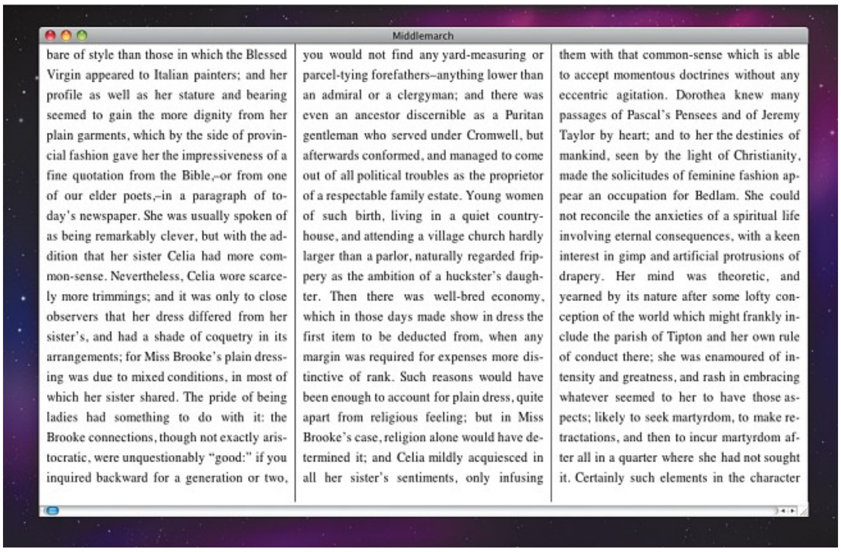
Ian Tromp

HOW TO Find the right ebook reader for you

01 Simple and functional

Lexcycle, the company that produces the *Stanza* app for iPhone and Mac (and Windows) was recently bought by Amazon. That could mean big changes for all – perhaps including the ability to download books directly from Amazon? Here, we're interested in the desktop app, but must note that the iPhone app has improved enormously since it first appeared on the App Store, and the two programs work together well, making it easy to transfer books from computer to iPhone or iPod touch. The desktop version is simple and streamlined. Download your books in a web browser, then open them from within *Stanza*. By default, the window is set to display text in three columns, which is easier to read. However, you can choose to use any font on your system, as well as different layouts and themes, to suit. One feature we like is *Stanza*'s ability to display PDFs – it strips them down to their basic text, making it easier to read longer documents.



bare of style than those in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to Italian painters; and her profile as well as her stature and bearing seemed to gain the more dignity from her plain garments, which by the side of provincial fashion gave her the impressiveness of a fine quotation from the Bible,–or from one of our elder poets,–in a paragraph of today's newspaper. She was usually spoken of as being remarkably clever, but with the addition that her sister Celia had more common-sense. Nevertheless, Celia wore scarcely more trimmings; and it was only to close observers that her dress differed from her sister's, and had a shade of coquetry in its arrangements; for Miss Brooke's plain dressing was due to mixed conditions, in most of which her sister shared. The pride of being ladies had something to do with it: the Brooke connections, though not exactly aristocratic, were unquestionably "good:" if you inquired backward for a generation or two, you would not find any yard-measuring or parcel-tying forefathers–anything lower than an admiral or a clergyman; and there was even an ancestor discernible as a Puritan gentleman who served under Cromwell, but afterwards conformed, and managed to come out of all political troubles as the proprietor of a respectable family estate. Young women of such birth, living in a quiet country-house, and attending a village church hardly larger than a parlor, naturally regarded frippery as the ambition of a huckster's daughter. Then there was well-bred economy, which in those days made show in dress the first item to be deducted from, when any margin was required for expenses more distinctive of rank. Such reasons would have been enough to account for plain dress, quite apart from religious feeling; but in Miss Brooke's case, religion alone would have determined it; and Celia mildly acquiesced in all her sister's sentiments, only infusing them with that common-sense which is able to accept momentous doctrines without any eccentric agitation. Dorothea knew many passages of Pascal's Pensees and of Jeremy Taylor by heart; and to her the destinies of mankind, seen by the light of Christianity, made the solicitudes of feminine fashion appear an occupation for Bedlam. She could not reconcile the anxieties of a spiritual life involving eternal consequences, with a keen interest in gimp and artificial protrusions of drapery. Her mind was theoretic, and yearned by its nature after some lofty conception of the world which might frankly include the parish of Tipton and her own rule of conduct there; she was enamoured of intensity and greatness, and rash in embracing whatever seemed to her to have those aspects; likely to seek martyrdom, to make retractations, and then to incur martyrdom after all in a quarter where she had not sought it. Certainly such elements in the character

Stanza's three-column layout is easier on the eyes (and brain) than a large block of dense text.

02 So close to greatness

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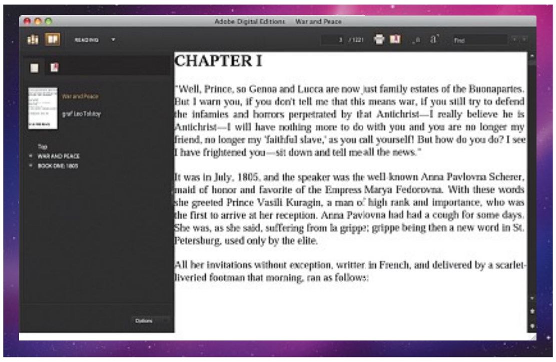
03 30,000 books for the price of two paperbacks

Voluminous is a front-end to Project Gutenberg, offering a simple, clear interface to find and read texts. The app opens in the **Main Catalogue** view, from which you can scroll through the library or search for authors, titles or catalogue numbers. Once you've found what you're after, double-click it for more information and then click **Download** to add it to your **Bookshelf**. You can also browse Project Gutenberg by topic and see which texts have recently been added - you can do these things at the site, but they're easier in *Voluminous*. What we like about this app is its display options: select from various **Styles**, to alter fonts, layout and cover images for the book you're reading, plus there's a slider to increase or decrease font sizes, so it's easy to customise the display, to suit. There's also a good full-screen mode: just hit ⌘+⇧+F and everything else fades away so that you can focus on what you're reading without distraction.



CHAPTER I

"Well, Prince, so Genoa and Lucca are now just family estates of the Buonapartes. But I warn you, if you don't tell me that this means war, if you still try to defend the infamies and horrors perpetrated by that Antichrist—I really believe he is Antichrist—I will have nothing more to do with you and you are no longer my friend, no longer my 'faithful slave,' as you call yourself! But how do you do? I see I have frightened you—sit down and tell me all the news."

It was in July, 1805, and the speaker was the well-known Anna Pavlovna Scherer, maid of honor and favorite of the Empress Marya Fedorovna. With these words she greeted Prince Vasili Kuragin, a man of high rank and importance, who was the first to arrive at her reception. Anna Pavlovna had had a cough for some days. She was, as she said, suffering from la grippe; grippe being then a new word in St. Petersburg, used only by the elite.

All her invitations without exception, written in French, and delivered by a scarlet-liveried footman that morning, ran as follows:

Bring back full-screen mode and Digital Editions would be a great option.

QUICK TIP

If you enable disk use, you can easily copy plain text books across to most older iPods as notes, so you can read the *Iliad* on your iPod nano or a host of other classics on your iPod classic, tiny screens notwithstanding!

04 On the iPhone and iPod touch

Like *Voluminous*, *Eucalyptus* (App Store, £5.99) connects to Project Gutenberg. At a penny short of six quid it's pricey for an iPhone app, but it's extremely well done and we think it's worth the money. When you open it up and tap on **Get Books**, *Eucalyptus* will display its current **Picks** on a virtual shelf. These tend to be new additions to Project Gutenberg's library, or topical choices (such as the transcript of President Obama's inaugural address). Tap on a cover and a card flips up so you can read more about your choice. Once a book is downloaded, it takes some time for *Eucalyptus* to lay out the pages, but you can start reading while it works in the background. Pages are clear and easy to read, and a swipe to the left or right moves backward or forward in the book, accompanied by a lovely animated page-turn. (We must confess that we've opened this app just for the pleasure of flicking through pages.) You can also search for books, and, again, this is beautifully handled and looks great. *Eucalyptus* is one of those apps that really underlines just what a brilliant device the iPhone is. ●

>> OS X SURVIVAL GUIDE

Protect your Mac

Christopher Brennan explains how to keep your Mac secure

>> PROFILE

Name: Christopher Brennan
Occupation: Freelance journalist, Mac consultant and house-husband
System(s): Mac Pro (2x 2.8GHz), MacBook (2GHz), 20-inch iMac (2GHz), 12-inch PowerBook G4 (1GHz)

For those who believe the adverts then the Mac is a secure fortress, impenetrable and completely without flaw. Windows, on the other hand, is a besieged and embattled place full of holes and back-doors. I think we all know that the reality is slightly different to the marketing hype, but all too often it's Mac users who lack the foresight to protect themselves.

The Mac is vulnerable. There, I said it. And now we've got that out in the open we can move on and start working out how to protect ourselves. Don't believe that the Mac and OS X is at risk? Earlier this year a Mac was hacked and complete control taken of it at the CanSecWest security conference during an event called Pwn2Own – basically, if you can hack the machine you can keep it and you get $10,000. The Mac fell first for the second year in a row. How long did it take to wrest control of this Mac from its owner? A week? A day? Sadly, it took a few seconds. With this in mind it's worth remembering that you have to protect your Mac as much as you can from possible attack. Relying on the insecurities of Windows doesn't make your Mac any safer.

Firewall is your friend

The Mac has a built-in firewall to help you protect your system from intruders and you should at least have it switched on. I noticed after some Snow Leopard installs that people had found their firewall switched off. In my case, the MacBook's had remained on, but the Mac Pro's had turned itself off.

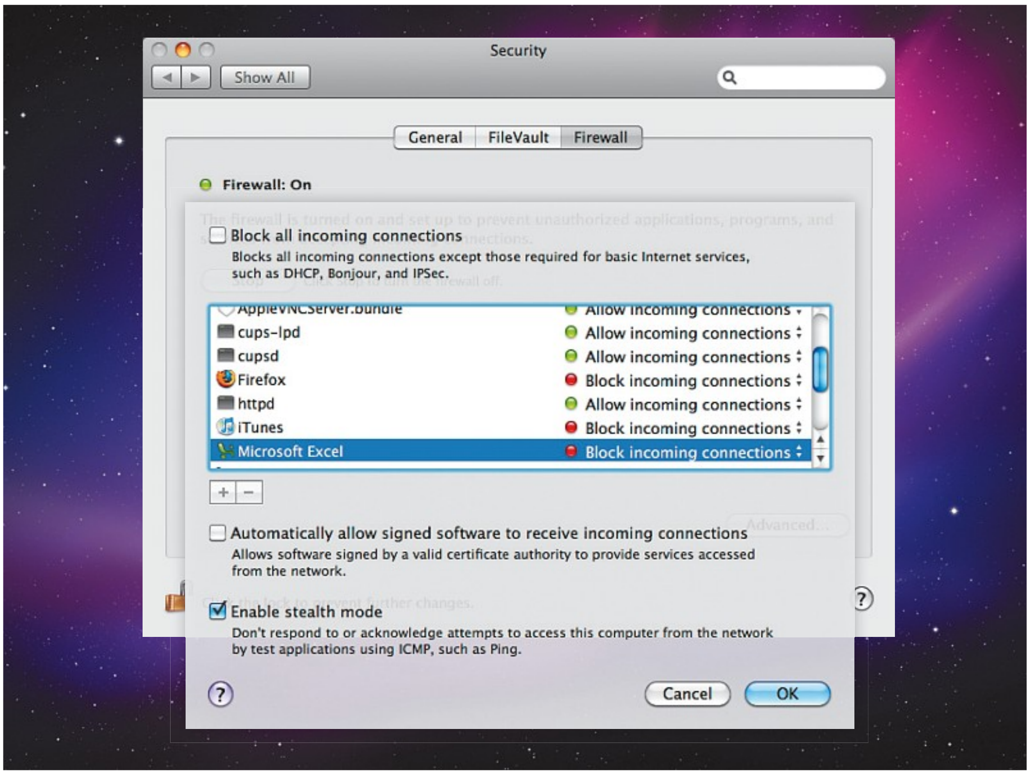
> "The Mac is a secure fortress, impenetrable and completely without flaw? I think we all know the reality is different to the marketing hype..."

To check if your firewall is functioning correctly, go to the Apple menu > System Preferences > Security and click on the **Firewall** tab. You should have a green light and the message **Firewall: On**. If it's not on, simply click the **Start** button.

However, that's not all you can do to protect from attack. Click on the **Advanced** button and you can take your online security to a whole new level. By ticking the box to block all incoming connections you basically cut your apps off from the network. *iTunes* sharing and screen sharing will be stopped, for example. By enabling the stealth mode you can keep your Mac off the radar. If your Mac is pinged by an external source then instead of replying, it does nothing – so a hacker won't know that your Mac exists on the network. Should you wish to block incoming connections for specific applications, you can do this too. Simply click on the + sign and navigate to the application you wish to block. Highlight the software and click on **Add**. Click on the **Allow Incoming Connections** text and change it to **Block Incoming Connections**.

A secure future

As the Mac grows in popularity we're more likely to see security problems being highlighted, but as long as you keep a close eye on your security and make sure you're protected, you should be fine. The bottom line is that your Mac is only as safe as you want it to be. Yes, there are fewer hacks for the Mac and Windows does suffer from its popularity, but you don't turn your burglar alarm off just because it's always the house across the street that gets broken into. ●



● Firewall: On

☐ Block all incoming connections
Blocks all incoming connections except those required for basic Internet services, such as DHCP, Bonjour, and IPSec.

AppleVNCServer.bundle ● Allow incoming connections
cups-lpd ● Allow incoming connections
cupsd ● Allow incoming connections
Firefox ● Block incoming connections
httpd ● Allow incoming connections
iTunes ● Block incoming connections
Microsoft Excel ● Block incoming connections

☐ Automatically allow signed software to receive incoming connections
Allows software signed by a valid certificate authority to provide services accessed from the network.

☑ Enable stealth mode
Don't respond to or acknowledge attempts to access this computer from the network by test applications using ICMP, such as Ping.

The Mac OS X firewall has become more and more powerful over the years and the latest version in Snow Leopard allows you even greater control.

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Get more from your keyboard

Define shortcuts, change language settings and navigate via your keyboard

» KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED
20 minutes

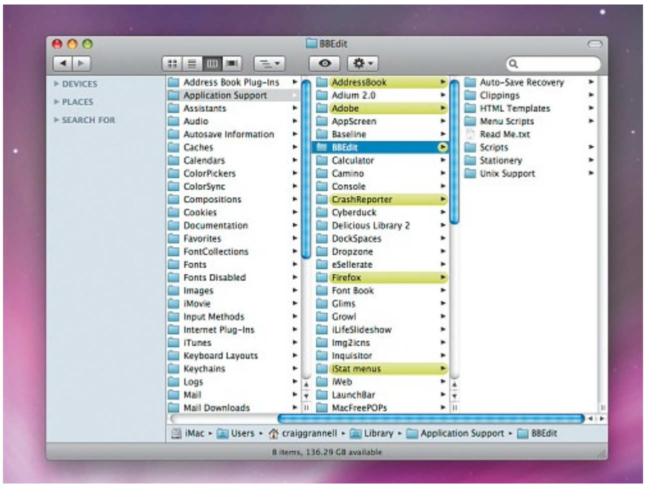
WHAT YOU'LL NEED
Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard or OS X 10.6 Snow leopard

Right from the very start, Apple encouraged people to mouse their way around the Mac OS, in direct contrast to keyboard-centric PCs. With its windows and other excitingly clickable components, the Mac of the 1980s felt like the future. But now we're in that future, some people find the risk of RSI doesn't make using mice terribly enticing, and anyone who spends their time tapping the keyboard may resent having to use the mouse at all.

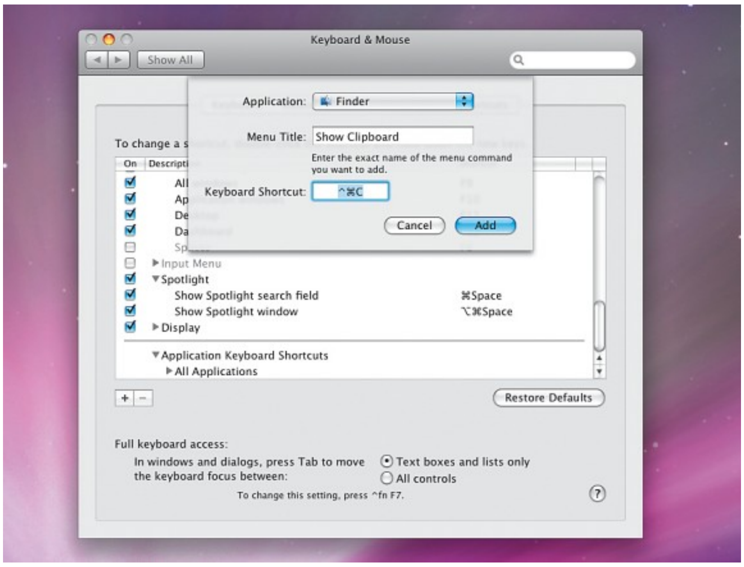
This tutorial provides a quick-fire guide to the most important keyboard-orientated aspects of Mac OS X. You'll learn useful keyboard shortcuts, how to navigate *Finder* using only keys and also a number of more advanced keyboard settings that provide the potential to speed up your workflow.

Shortcuts to success

Tests suggest that it's not always faster to use keyboard shortcuts than a mouse – it's often quicker to whizz the mouse cursor across the screen and click than it is to access something by prodding a few keys. However, common actions that need doing multiple times are almost always faster using a keyboard, especially if they're then followed by keyboard input.


BBEdit
DEVICES
PLACES
SEARCH FOR
iMac ▸ Users ▸ craiggrannell ▸ Library ▸ Application Support ▸ BBEdit
8 items, 136.29 GB available

Although designed for mousing around, you can navigate Finder using your keyboard.



Application: Finder

Menu Title: Show Clipboard

Enter the exact name of the menu command you want to add.

Keyboard Shortcut: ^⌘C

Full keyboard access:
In windows and dialogs, press Tab to move the keyboard focus between:
● Text boxes and lists only
○ All controls
To change this setting, press ^fn F7.

Create your own keyboard shortcuts using the Keyboard Shortcuts preferences.

Therefore, burn directly into your memory certain common shortcuts that are used across the system. ⌘+X, C and V provide keyboard access to Cut, Copy and Paste. ⌘+A selects all content within the current document and ⌘+Z usually undoes the previous action. ⌘+N, O and S are typically used for creating a new document, accessing the Open dialog and saving the current file, respectively. And while you can click on the Spotlight icon in your menu bar to bring up the search field, hit ⌘+[Space] instead, since your next action will be typing a search term.

> *"Common actions that need doing multiple times are almost always faster using a keyboard, especially if they're followed by keyboard input"*

Navigating Finder

Although Windows users often claim *Finder* isn't keyboard-friendly, that really isn't the case, and it's perfectly feasible to navigate your way around a Mac using the keyboard. In *Finder* (which you can switch to by pressing ⌘+⇥), ⌘+N brings up a new window. ⌘ and a number changes the view: 1 for Icon; 2 for List; 3 for Column; 4 for Cover Flow. Cursor keys can be used to navigate all views and ⌘+O opens a selection. To select multiple items, hold ⇧ and press a cursor key. To drill down into a selected folder, use ⌘+▼ arrow; and ⌘+▲ arrow moves you up one level in your Mac's folder hierarchy. Also, if you're working in List view, the ▶ and ◀ arrows expand and collapse folders, respectively.

On the following page, we'll show you how to amend your language settings, display the input menu, define new keyboard shortcuts for your favourite applications and enable full keyboard navigation for your system. With the last of those things, you could potentially ditch a mouse entirely, but even if you love your mouse, knowing more keyboard shortcuts will enable you to work with your Mac more efficiently. You'll be a Mac keyboard master in no time! **Craig Grannell**

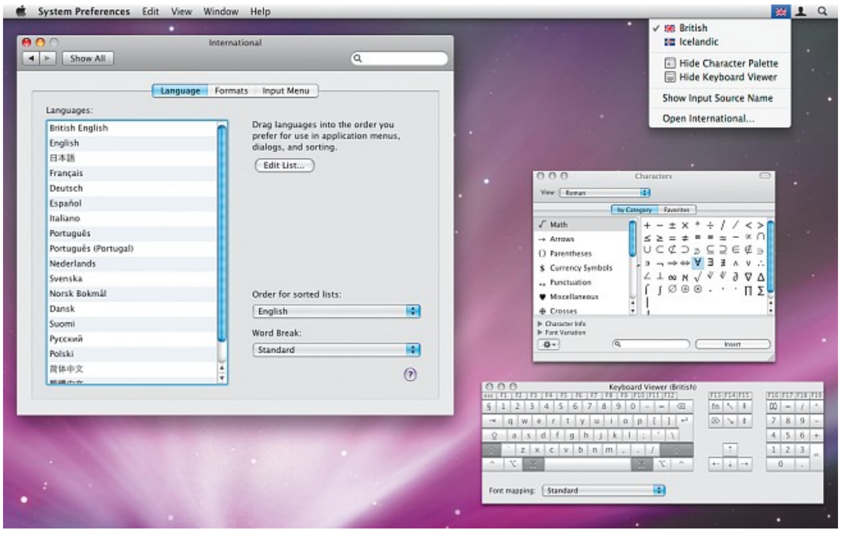
HOW TO / Configure your keyboard to work for you

01 Amend your language settings

In *System Preferences*, open the **International** pane (in Leopard) or **Language & Text** (in Snow Leopard). Here you'll find the answer to some major keyboard-orientated issues Mac users regularly come up against. First, if you're a British English user, click **Language** and **Edit List…**. Within the sheet, check **British English** to add it to the list and click **OK**. In the **Languages** area to the left of the pane, drag **British English** above **English**. On restarting apps that use these system-wide settings (such as *Pages*), they'll now be fine with British-English words (such as 'colour'), rather than US alternatives.

02 Display the Input Menu

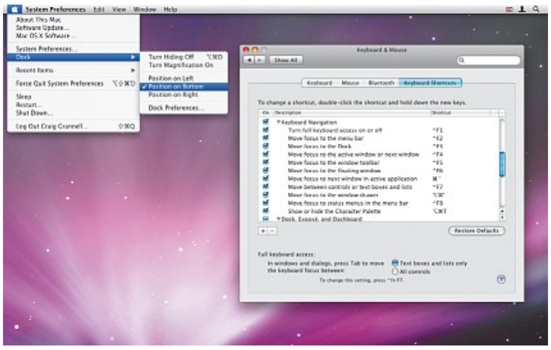
Next, select the **Input Menu** tab (**Input Sources** in Snow Leopard). You'll see a list of languages, along with some palette types. Check **Character Palette** and **Keyboard Viewer** (they're combined in Snow Leopard). If you'd like the option of switching between keyboard layouts, select the relevant keyboard options below. Check **Show input menu in menu bar** and in Leopard a flag will appear in the menu bar, indicating your current keyboard layout. In Snow Leopard a different symbol appears. Click it and select **Show Character Palette** to access hard-to-find symbols and insert them into the current open document (select a symbol and click **Insert**). **Show Keyboard Viewer** brings up an on-screen keyboard that indicates which characters are available when you hold modifier keys (⌘, ⌥, ⇧ and so on) – handy for Mac newcomers searching for characters such as the copyright symbol (⌥+G) and en-dash (⇧+⌥+–).


System Preferences
Edit
View
Window
Help
International
Show All
Language
Formats
Input Menu
Languages:
British English
English
日本語
Français
Deutsch
Español
Italiano
Português
Português (Portugal)
Nederlands
Svenska
Norsk Bokmål
Dansk
Suomi
Русский
Polski
简体中文
Drag languages into the order you prefer for use in application menus, dialogs, and sorting.
Edit List…
Order for sorted lists:
English
Word Break:
Standard
British
Icelandic
Hide Character Palette
Hide Keyboard Viewer
Show Input Source Name
Open International…
Characters
View
Roman
by Category
Favorites
Math
Arrows
Parentheses
Currency Symbols
Punctuation
Miscellaneous
Crosses
Character Info
Font Variation
Insert
Keyboard Viewer (British)
Font mapping:
Standard

The Input Menu enables you to switch keyboard layouts and access useful palettes.

03 Enable full keyboard navigation

In *System Preferences*, open **Keyboard & Mouse**, (now **Keyboard** in Snow Leopard) and select **Keyboard Shortcuts** and scroll down to the **Keyboard Navigation** section (**Keyboard & Text Input** in Snow Leopard). If the section is collapsed, expand it by clicking the **triangular widget**. As you'll see, ctrl+F1 toggles **Turn full keyboard access on or off**; when this setting is active, ctrl in tandem with other function keys moves focus to various components of Mac OS X. For example, ctrl+F2 moves focus to the **menu bar**, enabling you to navigate via cursor keys and select an option with ↩, and also to snap to menu items by typing relevant letters. Similarly, ctrl+F3 moves focus to the **Dock**, and you can snap to apps by typing a letter or two. ctrl+F6 is particularly useful, rotating through the windows of all applications, like the way ⌘+` works for windows within a specific app.


System Preferences
Edit
View
Window
Help
About This Mac
Software Update…
Mac OS X Software…
System Preferences…
Dock
Recent Items
Force Quit System Preferences
Sleep
Restart…
Shut Down…
Log Out Craig Grannell…
Turn Hiding Off
Turn Magnification On
Position on Left
Position on Bottom
Position on Right
Dock Preferences…
Keyboard & Mouse
Show All
Keyboard
Mouse
Bluetooth
Keyboard Shortcuts
To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.
Keyboard Navigation
Turn full keyboard access on or off
Move focus to the menu bar
Move focus to the Dock
Move focus to the active window or next window
Move focus to the window toolbar
Move focus to the floating window
Move focus to next window in active application
Move focus to status menus in the menu bar
Show or hide the Character Palette
Dock, Exposé, and Dashboard
Restore Defaults
Full keyboard access:
Text boxes and lists only
All controls

By turning on full keyboard navigation, you can navigate your Mac without a mouse.

QUICK TIP

If you want to take things further with keyboard shortcuts, check out third-party add-on *Spark* (**http://shadowlab.org**), which enables you to define shortcuts for launching apps and folders, and much more.

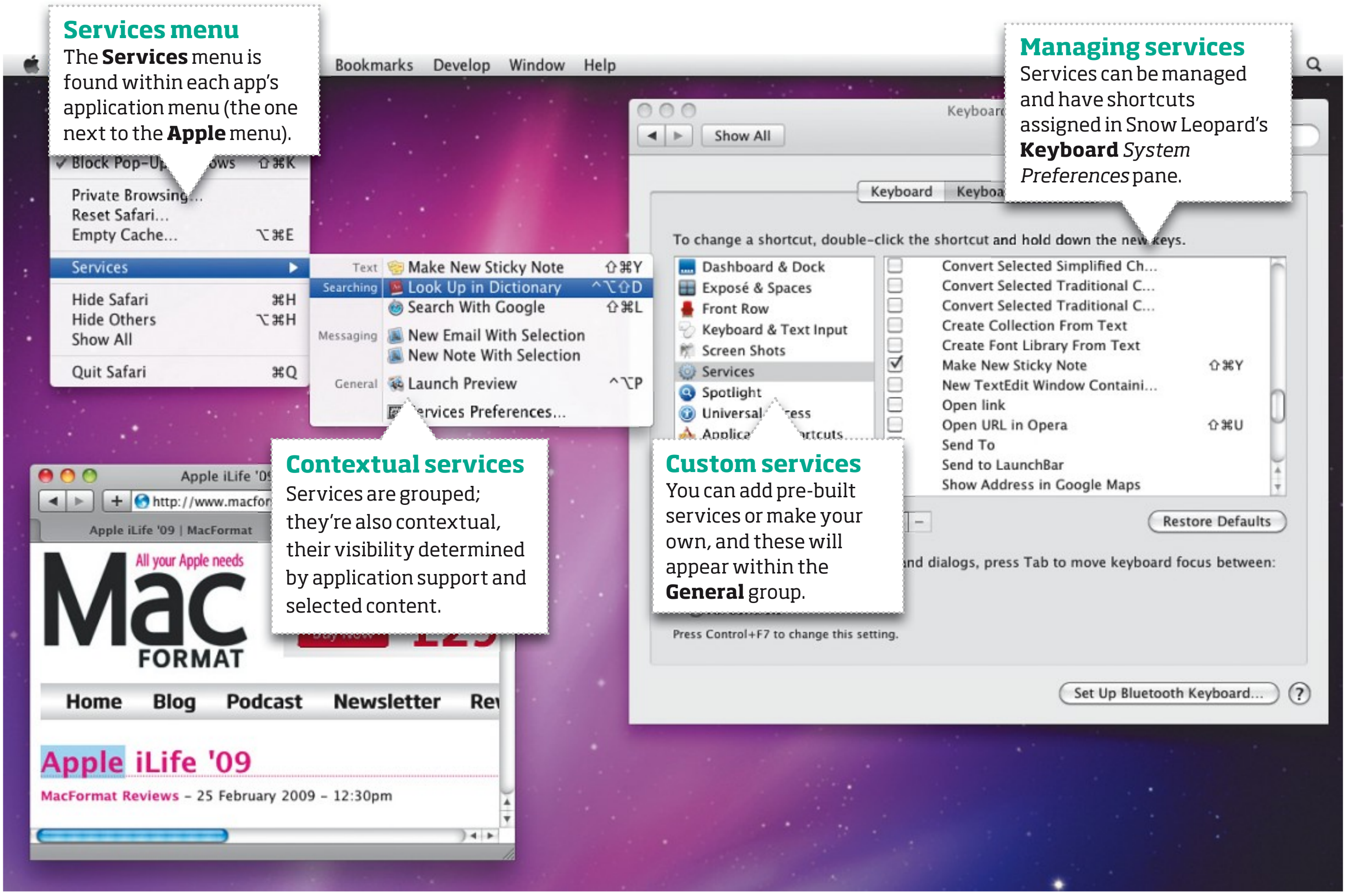
04 Create keyboard shortcuts

Although well-designed applications aim to provide shortcuts to important menu items, some are inevitably mouse-only. However, Apple provides the means to create custom shortcuts for any application. Back in the keyboard settings, scroll all the way to the bottom. You'll see a section called **Application Keyboard Shortcuts** (**Application Shortcuts** in Snow Leopard). Next, go into your application of choice and note the name of the menu item you want to add a shortcut to. The name must be exact, including its case. For this example, we're going to add a shortcut to Edit > Show Clipboard in *Finder*.

Click the + button towards the bottom-left of the pane. This brings up a sheet. Select your chosen application from the **Application** menu, and then type the relevant menu item name (in this case, **Show Clipboard**) into the **Menu Title** field. Finally, give the item a shortcut by clicking inside the **Keyboard Shortcut** field and holding down your chosen shortcut keys. Click the **Add** button to confirm your choice. Note that we've used ctrl+⌘+C, a shortcut combination that's not used elsewhere. Although it's tough to know for sure if you've avoided a clash, few Mac applications use ctrl as a modifier, and so ctrl+⌥+[key] or ctrl+⌘+[key] is often usable.

05 Use and edit custom shortcuts

Switch to *Finder* and try your shortcut – the **Clipboard** window should appear. To edit shortcuts in future, return to **Keyboard Shortcuts** and double-click a shortcut to highlight it, then press a new combination. To remove a shortcut, select it and click the - button. ●


Bookmarks
Develop
Window
Help
Block Pop-Up Windows ⇧⌘K
Private Browsing...
Reset Safari...
Empty Cache... ⌥⌘E
Services
Hide Safari ⌘H
Hide Others ⌥⌘H
Show All
Quit Safari ⌘Q
Text
Make New Sticky Note ⇧⌘Y
Searching
Look Up in Dictionary ^⌥⇧D
Search With Google ⇧⌘L
Messaging
New Email With Selection
New Note With Selection
General
Launch Preview ^⌥P
Services Preferences...
Keyboard
Show All
Keyboard
Keyboard Shortcuts
To change a shortcut, double-click the shortcut and hold down the new keys.
Dashboard & Dock
Exposé & Spaces
Front Row
Keyboard & Text Input
Screen Shots
Services
Spotlight
Universal Access
Application Shortcuts
Convert Selected Simplified Ch...
Convert Selected Traditional C...
Convert Selected Traditional C...
Create Collection From Text
Create Font Library From Text
Make New Sticky Note ⇧⌘Y
New TextEdit Window Containi...
Open link
Open URL in Opera ⇧⌘U
Send To
Send to LaunchBar
Show Address in Google Maps
Restore Defaults
and dialogs, press Tab to move keyboard focus between:
Press Control+F7 to change this setting.
Set Up Bluetooth Keyboard...
Apple iLife '09
http://www.macformat
Apple iLife '09 | MacFormat
All your Apple needs
Mac FORMAT
Home
Blog
Podcast
Newsletter
Apple iLife '09
MacFormat Reviews – 25 February 2009 – 12:30pm

Services menu
The **Services** menu is found within each app's application menu (the one next to the **Apple** menu).

Managing services
Services can be managed and have shortcuts assigned in Snow Leopard's **Keyboard** *System Preferences* pane.

Contextual services
Services are grouped; they're also contextual, their visibility determined by application support and selected content.

Custom services
You can add pre-built services or make your own, and these will appear within the **General** group.

Speed up your workflow

Master Snow Leopard's revamped, efficient system-wide services

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

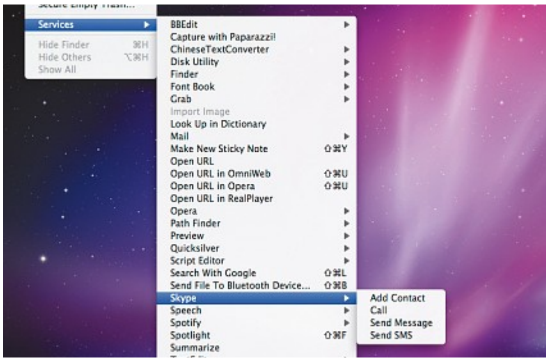
TIME NEEDED:
10 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, internet connection

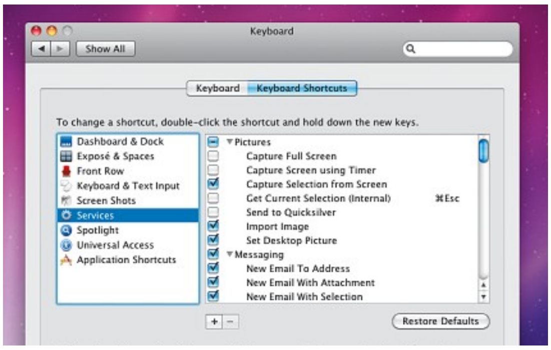
When Apple purchased NeXT, the biggest reason was to acquire a next-generation operating system to replace the outdated Mac OS 9 (along with getting Steve Jobs back to replace Apple's outdated CEO). Looking at NeXTSTEP now, you'd be forgiven for thinking it a world away from Mac OS X, but many core ideas from the NeXT system remain on your Mac. Sadly, implementation of one of the best – services – was so poor that few Mac users realise it even exists.

Services are supposed to provide a clean, efficient means of copying, manipulating and sending data on a system-wide basis. For example, you can select some text on a website and use a service to send it to *Mail*. Since services can have keyboard shortcuts assigned, there's immense potential for speeding up workflow.

Until now, this potential has never been fully realised. The Services menu typically ended up a cluttered mess. However, Snow Leopard updates the technology, making it manageable and context-sensitive. This tutorial gives you the full lowdown on the revised Services menu.
Craig Grannell

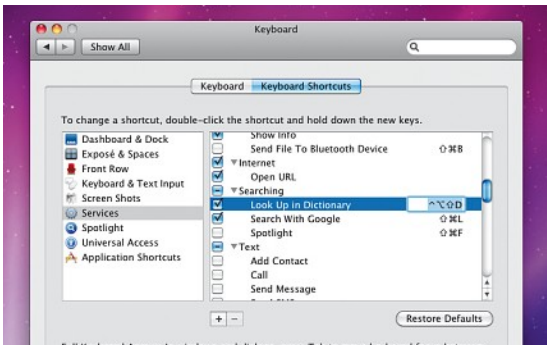

Secure Empty Trash...
Services
Hide Finder ⌘H
Hide Others ⌥⌘H
Show All
BBEdit
Capture with Paparazzi!
ChineseTextConverter
Disk Utility
Finder
Font Book
Grab
Import Image
Look Up in Dictionary
Mail
Make New Sticky Note ⇧⌘Y
Open URL
Open URL in OmniWeb ⇧⌘U
Open URL in Opera ⇧⌘U
Open URL in RealPlayer
Opera
Path Finder
Preview
Quicksilver
Script Editor
Search With Google ⇧⌘L
Send File To Bluetooth Device... ⇧⌘B
Skype
Speech
Spotify
Spotlight ⇧⌘F
Summarize
Add Contact
Call
Send Message
Send SMS

01 Services pre-Snow Leopard
In applications that support services, you see a huge menu stuffed full of installed options that you'd never use, obscuring the ones you might find useful. Shortcuts clash, and in unsupported apps you still get the menu, but with greyed-out options everywhere. Worse, one valiant attempt at enabling services management, *Service Scrubber*, doesn't work properly with Leopard.



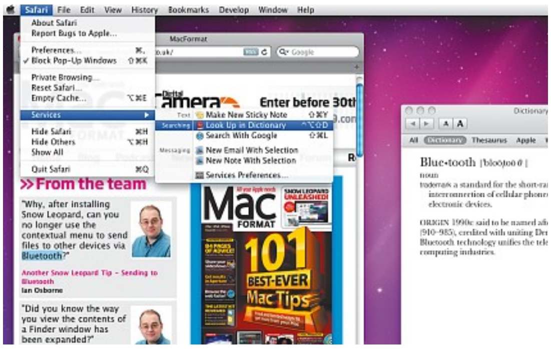
02 Manage your services

In Snow Leopard, open *System Preferences* and select **Keyboard**. Click the **Keyboard Shortcuts** tab and choose **Services** from the items in the left-hand pane. On the right, you'll see the services grouped into categories – use the triangular widgets to expand or collapse them. Use the checkboxes to turn a service on or off.



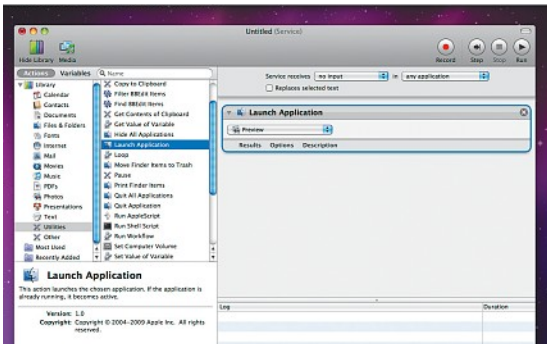
03 Assign a shortcut

Any service can have a shortcut assigned, which will work with all apps that support that service. Scroll to the **Searching** category and double-click the blank space to the right of **Look Up in Dictionary**. Hold ctrl+⌥+⇧+D. Your shortcut will be shown. (The non-standard nature of the shortcut, not using ⌘, should avoid potential clashes.)



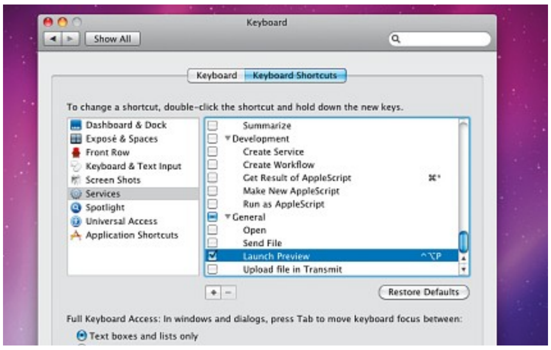
04 Use your service shortcut

Open a web page in *Safari* and select a word. In the **Services** menu, choose **Look Up in Dictionary**. The *Dictionary* app will open to define the word. Now select another word and press the shortcut defined in Step 3. Another *Dictionary* window should open with a definition. Steps 3 and 4 can be repeated for any installed service.



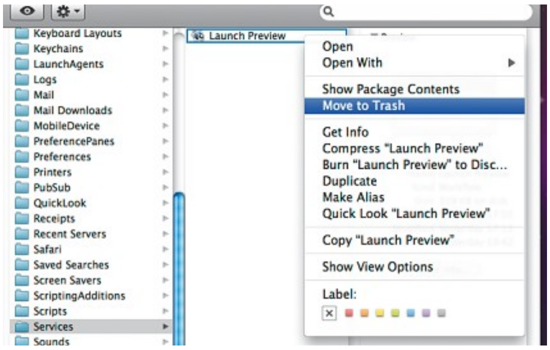
05 Make a service for Preview

Open *Automator*, select the **Service** template and click **Choose**. From the **Library** column, select **Utilities**; drag **Launch Application** to the workflow pane. Select **No Input** from the **Service Receives** menu and pick *Preview* from the menu below the **Launch Application** header. Go to File > Save As and call your service **Launch Preview**.



06 Edit and use your service

Use the technique described in Step 3 to assign a keyboard shortcut to your new service; find it by scrolling down to the **General** section in the relevant **Keyboard Shortcuts** pane. (ctrl+⌘+P is a good, unique shortcut.) You can then use your shortcut to launch *Preview*. If the app's already launched, the shortcut will focus it.



07 Removing services

Although you can disable a service, there's no way to delete one entirely using *System Preferences*. However, you can do so manually. Services created in *Automator* are found in **~/Library/Services** and installed services (see Expert Tip, above right) are usually found in **/Library/Services**. To scrap a service, select it and press ⌘+⌫. ●

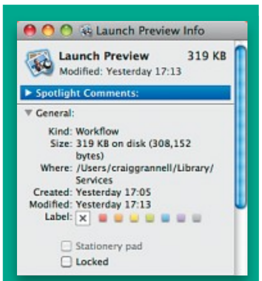
EXPERT TIP

Customisable services

It seems Apple has listened to criticisms levelled at pre-Snow Leopard services and made it more customisable. This has also enabled third-parties to get in on the act, so if you don't fancy using *Automator* (as per Step 5 of the tutorial), you can install ready-made services.

KavaServices (**http://kavasoft.com/KavaServices**) is a commercial product that bundles a bunch of translation and encoding text-based services, but many free downloadable services also exist. Several examples can be found at **http://macosxautomation.com/services/download**. (The *Finder* services installer is flaky – you may need to run it a few times for it to show in *System Preferences*.

Craig's knowledge of OS X would make Mr Jobs proud.



»QUICK TIP

Custom services often take *Automator*'s icon. To change this, copy an icon from an item's **Get Info** window, open a service's **Get Info** window, select the icon at the top-left and use ⌘+V to paste.

QuickTime Player File Edit View Share Window Help
cursor thing.mov
Trim
Cancel
Movie Recording 4.mov
00:00:11
-00:00:00
MacBook Pro

cursor thing.mov—Inspector

cursor thing.mov

Source: /Users/craiggrannell/Movies/cursor thing.mov
Format: Photo – JPEG, 1280 x 800, Millions AAC, 1 channels, 44100 Hz
FPS: 13.31
Data Size: 63.6 MB
Data Rate: 15.71 Mbit/s
Current Size: 640 x 400 pixels (Half)

QuickTime X is your one-stop hub for video recording without hassle.

Record and share videos

Use Snow Leopard's QuickTime Player to make movies and get them online

>> KEY INFO

DIFFICULTY:
Intermediate

TIME NEEDED:
15 minutes

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:
Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, Mac with microphone and camera, YouTube account

With Snow Leopard, the standard version of *QuickTime Player* brings with it a set of handy recording functions. You can use the player to record from your Mac's camera, make a movie of your screen actions or just record audio. Usefully, basic trimming and sharing functionality is also available from within the app, meaning you needn't go to *iMovie* or other editing software to create basic videos. Therefore, if your demands aren't too high, *QuickTime Player* is now all you need to take a stab at video blogging, or to create a quick-fire tutorial about some aspect of Mac OS X to send to a friend.

Since pretty much all you need to know about these features is in the walkthrough on the following page, we're going to spend the rest of this intro providing a few tips on how to get the best out of your recordings.

If you're doing a screen recording, then clarity and efficiency are key, regardless of whether your creation is going to be seen by one person via email or many more via the likes of YouTube. If you're using audio, write some notes (or a basic script) and use an external microphone. Practise your walkthrough a couple of times before committing it to video, and if you mess it up, just start again.

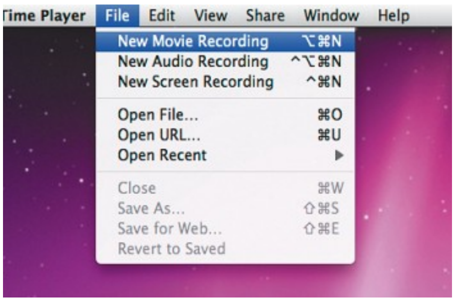
> *"QuickTime is all you need to take a stab at video blogging, or to create a quick-fire tutorial about OS X"*

When recording for video blogging, it pays to be a bit more spontaneous, but still make some notes regarding what you're going to say. If possible, clear clutter from behind you, so your environment doesn't distract from the video. Also try experimenting with framing so you're filling most of the screen, rather than sitting in the background.

Finally, *QuickTime Player* now offers trimming functionality. Pause for a couple of seconds to compose yourself at the start and end of your recording – those 'blank' seconds can be lopped off later. Have fun!

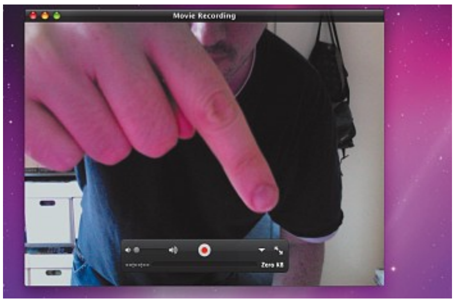
Craig Grannell

HOW TO / Record a movie on your Mac


Time Player
File
Edit
View
Share
Window
Help
New Movie Recording ⌥⌘N
New Audio Recording ^⌥⌘N
New Screen Recording ^⌘N
Open File... ⌘O
Open URL... ⌘U
Open Recent
Close ⌘W
Save As... ⇧⌘S
Save for Web... ⇧⌘E
Revert to Saved

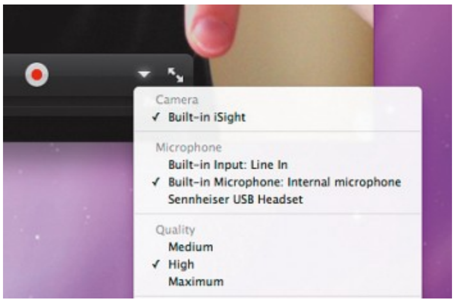
01 Choose a record mode

Three options for recording are available from the File menu. **New Movie Recording** is for recording from your Mac's camera; **New Audio Recording** is for creating an audio-only recording; and **New Screen Recording** enables you to record events on your Mac's screen.


Movie Recording
Zero KB

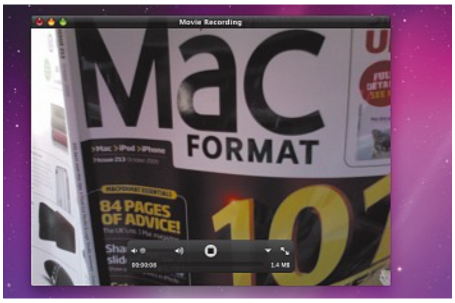
02 Choose a movie type

Choose **New Movie Recording**. A new window will appear and you'll see a view from your Mac's camera. The controls towards the bottom of the image enable you to switch between full-screen view and using the number of pixels determined by your settings.


Camera
✓ Built-in iSight
Microphone
Built-in Input: Line In
✓ Built-in Microphone: Internal microphone
Sennheiser USB Headset
Quality
Medium
✓ High
Maximum

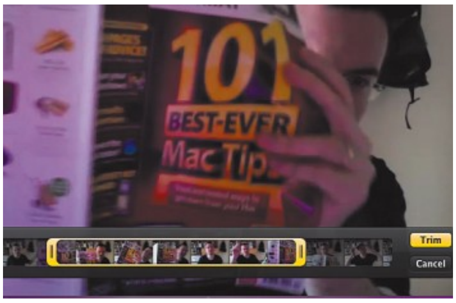
03 Define your settings

Click the triangular widget in the control interface to access settings. If you want audio, select a microphone to use; **Quality** largely relates to the movie's dimensions; **Save to** enables you to amend the save location if you don't want to save to **~/Movies**.


Movie Recording
00:00:08
1.4 MB

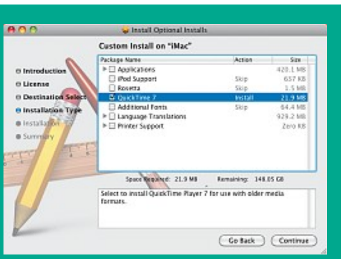
04 Record your movie

Hit **Space** or the **record** button to start recording. Once you're done, hit **Space** or the **record** button again to stop the recording. It's automatically saved, so you don't need to worry about that at this point. Use the controls to play through your movie to check if it's okay.


Trim
Cancel

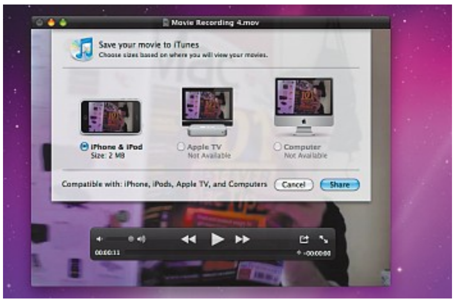
05 Trim your movie

Go to Edit > Trim (or press ⌘+T) to start performing basic trimming on your recording. Use the drag handles to adjust the start and end points of your clip and the **Play** button to preview. When you're done, click the **Trim** button. (Edit > Undo reverts it.)


Install Optional Installs
Custom Install on "iMac"
Introduction
License
Destination Select
Installation Type
Installation
Summary
Package Name
Action
Size
Applications
420.1 MB
iPod Support
Skip
657 KB
Rosetta
Skip
1.5 MB
QuickTime 7
Install
21.9 MB
Additional Fonts
Skip
64.4 MB
Language Translations
929.2 MB
Printer Support
Zero KB
Space Required: 21.9 MB
Remaining: 148.05 GB
Select to install QuickTime Player 7 for use with older media formats.
Go Back
Continue

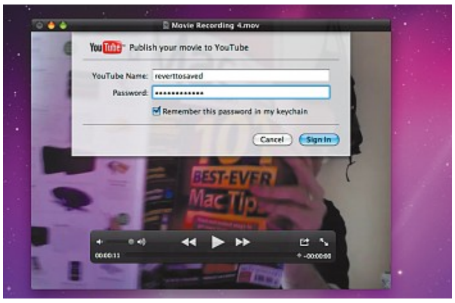
QUICK TIP

If you miss *QuickTime 7*, launch **Optional Installs.mpkg**, found in **Optional Installs** on your Snow Leopard DVD. Select *QuickTime 7* and **Continue**. The player installs into your **Utilities** folder. (Note: the player should be already installed if you owned *QuickTime Pro*.)


Movie Recording 4.mov
Save your movie to iTunes
Choose sizes based on where you will view your movies.
iPhone & iPod
Size: 2 MB
Apple TV
Not Available
Computer
Not Available
Compatible with: iPhone, iPods, Apple TV, and Computers
Cancel
Share
00:00:11
-00:00:00

06 Share to iTunes

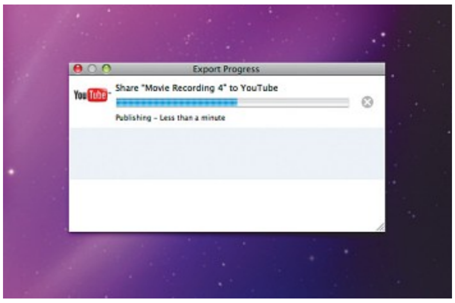
Go to Share > iTunes and select an export type. *QuickTime Player* automatically disables options when an exported movie would be larger than the original without improving quality. Click **Share** and the movie will be exported to *iTunes*' **Movies** library.


Movie Recording 4.mov
Publish your movie to YouTube
Cancel
Sign In
00:00:11
-00:00:00

YouTube Name: reverttosaved
Password: •••••••••••••
☑ Remember this password in my keychain

07 Share to YouTube

If you've got a YouTube account, select Share > YouTube to send it there. In the sheet, add your account's username and password and click **Sign In**. Next, define a category and add a title, description and tags for your movie. Click **Next** and **Share**.


Export Progress
Share "Movie Recording 4" to YouTube
Publishing – Less than a minute

08 View your video

Upload speed to YouTube depends on your video's size, your connection speed and how long YouTube takes to process the video. Go to Window > Show Export Progress to see how things are going. When it's done, click the **magnifying glass** to view the video online. ●

Q&A

● HINTS & TIPS ● TROUBLESHOOTING ● EXPERT ADVICE ● ESSENTIAL INFO

>> MEET YOUR Q&A EXPERT

Whatever your Mac-related problem, from misbehaving MacBooks to a wireless networks, Luis Villazon can help.

>> ASK LUIS A QUESTION

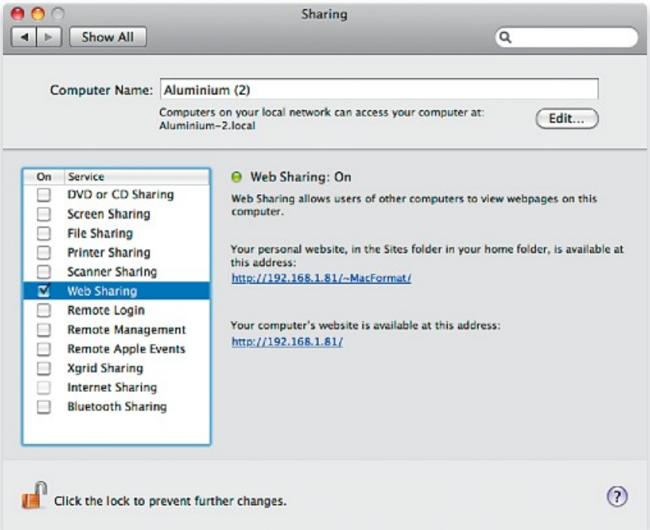
✉ Got a problem with your Mac? Then why not send your queries to Luis at **macformat.helpline@futurenet.com** and see if he can help.

"Can I broadcast my calendar to another Mac?"

Q How can you publish an *iCal* calendar to another Mac on the same network? It used to be possible using WebDAV and although it wasn't quite straightforward, it worked fine in 2006. Then, with OS X 10.5, it all stopped for some reason – you either needed a MobileMe account, an Apple Server or some other hosting service.
Peter Kavanagh

A WebDAV isn't supported in Leopard but you don't need it because OS X has always included a built-in web server. You enable this in the Sharing pane of *System Preferences* by ticking the Web Sharing box. Once this is running, you can upload your calendar there by choosing Calendar > Publish and switching to A Private Server instead of MobileMe. For the base URL, you need to enter the IP address that was supplied when you turned on web sharing. But instead of http, you begin the URL with ftp, like this: ftp://192.168.1.81/public_html/. You need the public_html/ on the end as well; that's the default folder for the server. Enter your username and password in the login boxes and you're good to go.

That's the calendar hosted. To access it from another Mac, choose Calendar > Subscribe In iCal and in the Calendar URL box, type http://192.168.1.81/CalendarName.ics. The numeric part of that address may be different in your case, but the important things to notice are: the URL now begins with http instead of ftp; you don't need the public_html folder because it's implied; and the calendar file ends with .ics.



Computer Name: Aluminium (2)

Computers on your local network can access your computer at: Aluminium-2.local

☐ DVD or CD Sharing
☐ Screen Sharing
☐ File Sharing
☐ Printer Sharing
☐ Scanner Sharing
☑ Web Sharing
☐ Remote Login
☐ Remote Management
☐ Remote Apple Events
☐ Xgrid Sharing
☐ Internet Sharing
☐ Bluetooth Sharing

● Web Sharing: On

Web Sharing allows users of other computers to view webpages on this computer.

Your personal website, in the Sites folder in your home folder, is available at this address: http://192.168.1.81/~MacFormat/

Your computer's website is available at this address: http://192.168.1.81/

Click the lock to prevent further changes.

You don't need WebDAV because Leopard includes an Apache web server.

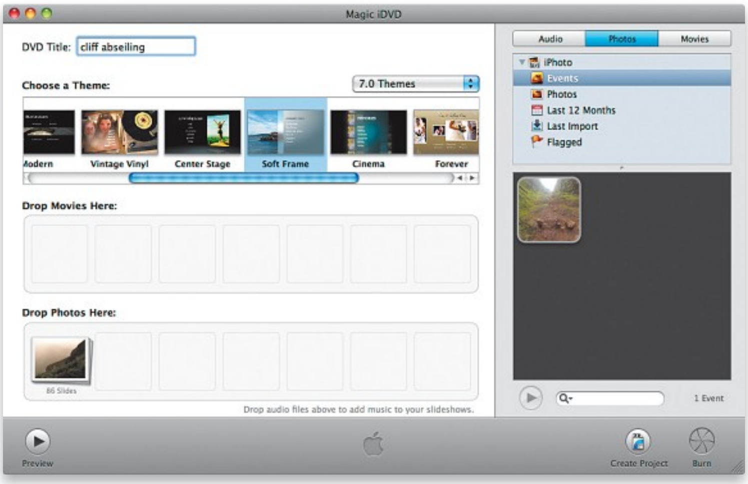
MacBook Pro

A bug in Leopard can make your Macintosh HD icon transform into a Time Machine one.

"Where has my Macintosh HD icon disappeared to?"

Q I started using *Time Machine* about a year ago, but after I updated to OS X 10.5.8, the main hard drive (Macintosh HD) image has become a *Time Machine* icon. I used *Time Machine* with my Maxtor Onetouch. I have to unplug its FireWire cable every time I finish using the computer as there is a light glowing when the hard drive is connected to a computer. I still want to use *Time Machine* with my external HD but I don't want my Macintosh HD image to be a *Time Machine* icon.
Conrad Wee

A This is a strange problem that's probably been around for as long as *Time Machine*, I think. It seems



DVD Title: cliff abseiling

Choose a Theme: 7.0 Themes

Burning slideshows to disc is by far the most straightforward way of sharing your photos.

as if certain external drives do something to the *Time Machine* preferences file that makes *Finder* treat the internal drive as a *Time Machine* volume whenever the external drive isn't present.

That's a very vague description of the problem, so let's see if we can unpack it a little. It only affects certain external disks, in the sense that changing to a different backup disk has been shown to fix the problem for some people. But whether the fault lies with a particular make and model of drive or with some corruption in the partition data on that drive is less clear. That the preferences file is implicated is demonstrated by deleting /Macintosh HD/Library/Preferences/com.apple.TimeMachine.plist. This will restore the correct icon to Macintosh HD, but only temporarily, so it's not just a random file corruption. Furthermore, if you delete the plist file to fix the icon and leave your external drive connected and mounted, the problem doesn't resurface until the next time you disconnect the drive and restart.

What this all boils down to is that it's a very subtle bug in Leopard. I can't personally reproduce it on any of my Macs so I can't test this but I haven't yet read any reports of the problem occurring in 10.6, so it's possible that it may have been fixed in Snow Leopard. Even if it hasn't, you now have the option to hide the hard disk icon on the desktop. Otherwise, your ghetto solution may be to just tape something over the blue light on your external disk, so you can leave it plugged in.

"Is there a cheaper way I can stream my photos?"

Q **I have an iMac 2GHz PowerPC G5 with OS X 10.4.11 upstairs that I'd like to connect via WiFi to a Panasonic HD-ready TV downstairs (TX26LXD80), which has HDMI sockets as well as an S-Video four-pin terminal. I know I can do this with an Apple TV unit, but, as I only want to be able to view my photos downstairs on the TV screen, I'm looking for a simpler (and cheaper) alternative. Ideally, I'd like to be able to do this without having to gallop up and down stairs. Do you have any solutions to this problem?**
Roy Lee

A The cheapest option of all is to burn your photos onto a CD or DVD. You can do this as a slideshow in *iPhoto* or *iDVD* but lots of DVD players will display a slideshow if you just present them with a CD-R full of JPEGs. Or you can use your digital camera as a card reader and connect that to the TV with a composite cable or S-Video.

Both of these solutions are almost free but if you update your photos often then there will obviously be a certain amount of stair-galloping. Adding WiFi media streaming from the iMac for less than the cost of an Apple TV (£219) isn't easy. You could use an iPod touch but syncing data over WiFi to a touch is somewhere between very tricky and impossible. And anyway, by the time you've added the universal dock and the AV cable, it isn't going to work out much cheaper.

»

Apple TV Alternatives

Bill Gallop

For anybody who wants to be able to watch movies or look at pictures stored on a Mac, from the comfort of their armchair, it may seem like buying an Apple TV is the only choice. However, there are a number of limitations as to what an Apple TV can do. For a start you need to have a TV with either HDMI or component inputs, which excludes most non-HDTVs, and you can only watch video that is in h.264 format, which excludes one of the most popular formats on the internet, DivX. Granted there are hacks out there that get over both of those problems; but you may not want to buy something only to have to hack it to make it do what you want. So what are the available alternatives?

You may already have something connected to your TV that you can use to play back your media. If you have a current-generation games console, e.g. an Xbox 360, PS3 or Wii, then it is fairly simple to connect it to your Mac. The Xbox 360 and PS3 are the best options as they are both designed to be media players, so it is just a case of running the right server application on your Mac such as *Connect360* and *Medialink* (**www.nullriver.com**). The Wii is more of a challenge since it isn't really designed for playing media and so products such as *Wii Transfer* (**www.riverfold.com/software/wiitransfer/**) have to first transcode your video to Flash and then display it using the Wii's Internet Channel.

"There are hacks that get over Apple TV limitations, but you may not be interested in buying something to hack…"

If you want a dedicated device for viewing media then you can take advantage of the Digital Living Network Alliance and Universal Plug and Play, which are standards for consumer electronics to talk to each other. Some TVs and BluRay players have DLNA clients built into them and there is a wide range of DLNA certified set-top boxes available starting from about £60. A good DLNA server, which you can find bundled with the player, is the *TwonkyMedia* server (**www.twonkymedia.com**). This allows you to share the media on your Mac and access Flickr, YouTube and internet radio. An interesting thing with the *TwonkyMedia Manager* that comes with the server, is you can push content from your Mac to the media player, and you aren't restricted to devices that connect to the TV. You can also push content to UPnP photo frames or audio players, such as the Freecom MusicPal.

Bill is Mac Solutions Consultant for Equanet (www.equanet.co.uk). Each month he will share his knowledge with you, from upgrading your operating system to the advantages of RAW files.

»QUICK TIP

As well as smart mailboxes in *Mail*, you can create them in **Spotlight**. Open a new search with ⌘+⌥+[Space], type in **kind:mail from:[enter a name - i.e 'fred']** as your **Spotlight** search and it'll find all emails with 'fred' in the address. Click **Save** and add it to **Saved Searches**, then view the emails from *Finder*.

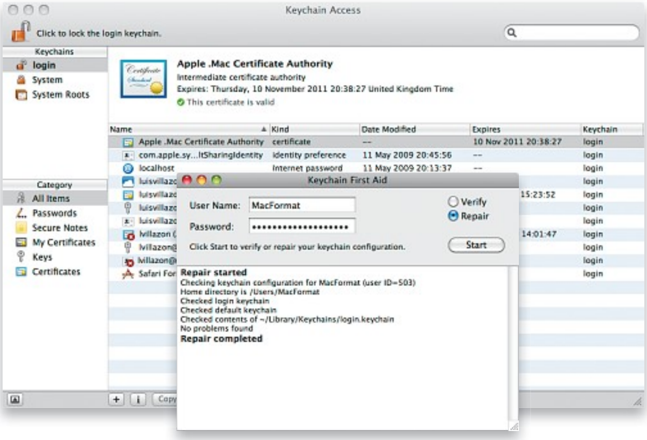
"What does this strange keychain message mean?"

Q After migrating my user to a new Mac Pro 8-core 2.66GHz, my Mac produces a new message after log-in as follows: "Aosnotifyd wants to use the keychain (myuser). Please enter the password." This request is strange enough, but it's even stranger for the fact that it asks for the old password that I used on the former machine. How do I get rid of this?

Pius Knüsel

A Aosnotifyd is the Apple Online Services notification daemon that handles the syncing of your data with MobileMe. In other words, it's a perfectly legitimate part of OS X with every right to be accessing the keychain. The real question then is what's the matter with the keychain. The answer is that it's probably just got corrupted. Open Applications >Utilities > Keychain Access, select your login keychain and choose Keychain Access > Keychain First Aid from the menu.

If that doesn't fix it, create a new keychain (again using *Keychain Access*), give it the same password as your user login and make this the new login keychain. You can then either drag and drop each item from the damaged keychain to the new one, or just resave the passwords in the new keychain one at a time as you use each service or website.



User Name: MacFormat

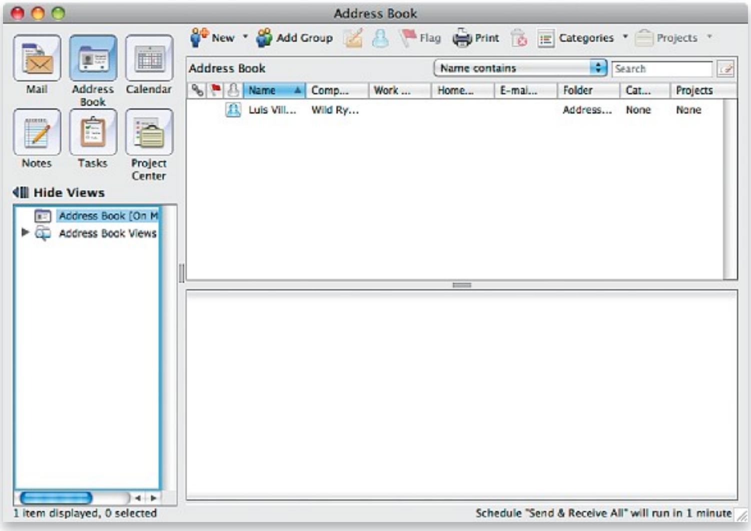
Password: •••••••••••••••••••

○ Verify
● Repair

Click Start to verify or repair your keychain configuration.

```
Repair started
Checking keychain configuration for MacFormat (user ID=503)
Home directory is /Users/MacFormat
Checked login keychain
Checked default keychain
Checked contents of ~/Library/Keychains/login.keychain
No problems found
Repair completed
```

Keychain Access stores all your passwords, but sometimes needs a hand.



Importing vCards is still the only way to get Address Book contacts into Entourage.

"How do I sync Entourage with MobileMe?"

Q Your article in last month's magazine prompted me to sign up for the 60-day MobileMe trial. I have two PCs at different locations both running XP Pro, as well as an iPhone 3G and a brand-new MacBook. Overall syncing of calendars, contacts and email works well. However, the MobileMe control panel on Windows gives an option of what applications to use for syncing contacts and calendars. On the Mac there appears to be no such option. Consequently, all

»MACFIXIT TIPS / Troubleshooting Favourite Servers

When you connect to servers using *Finder's* **Connect to Server** window, you have the option to save favourites in a list. But there can be problems where servers either can't be added or removed from it.

Apple discussion poster raymondw asks: "I know there's a plist that I have to edit, but I can't find it. When I open **Connect to Server** from the **Go** menu of *Finder*, there are three servers listed as favourites, but I'd like to delete them. When I click **Remove**, the servers disappear, but the next time I open **Connect to Server**, they're still there."

The location of saved favourites is different in Snow Leopard to other versions, so addressing this problem will depend on whether you've upgraded.

For 10.5 and earlier, when you save favourites they're not stored in a property list file, but as individual URL files. These are located in the /username/Library/Favourites folder, and can be edited using a standard text editor. Managing favourites in a system feature such as the **Connect to Server** window will add and remove these files from this folder, so you can do this manually to get the same result.

If you're having problems adding or removing items using system features, you might have a problem with read/write permissions on the **Favourites** folder. Get info on it and ensure your username is at the top of the permissions list, and has been given read/write permissions. Then use the gear menu to apply those permissions to the items in the folder. Try again and, if the problem persists, remove *Finder's* **Preferences** file (labelled **com.apple.Finder.plist and located in the /username/Library/Preferences** folder), and log out and back in again to reload *Finder*.

In 10.6 Snow Leopard saved favourites are stored in the **com.apple.sidebarlists.plist** preference file in /username/Library/Preferences folder. This file can be opened with the property list editor or a standard text editor. It contains saved searches, favourite servers, system items and user items that are in the *Finder* sidebar You can edit the property list or remove it and have *Finder* recreate it.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

contacts and calendar events automatically sync with Apple *Address Book* and *iCal*. I would prefer to sync with *Entourage* on the Mac but this doesn't appear to be an option. The only way I've found to transfer my 200-plus contacts into *Entourage* is to manually export them from the Apple address book as a vCard, which is really laborious and doesn't always transfer every address field successfully.
Mark Sykes

A There is a way to get *Entourage* to sync through MobileMe but it's a fairly fiddly process and unfortunately there isn't enough room here to go through all the steps for you. However, there's a really friendly guide at the Entourage Help Blog (http://blog.entourage.mvps.org), which you can read at http://tinyurl.com/oo8xxg.

For contact information, vCards are unfortunately the only way to transfer information out of *Address Book*. If the fields aren't mapping correctly, you might have more luck switching to vCard 2.1 format in the *Address Book* preferences pane.

"Can you please help me set up my speakers?"

Q **Issue 191 (February 2008) recommended the Acoustic Energy Aego M speakers. I've now bought them and they look good but I can't set them up. The store helpline just says to connect them up, but I get nothing but a humming on my connection. Is there something needed to connect the main lead into the back of my iMac?**
Alan Cartwright

A Some speaker systems do have particularly complicated wiring arrangements, it's true. But the Aego M speakers couldn't be simpler. All you have to do is run a single cable from the headphone socket on your iMac to the main sub-bass unit and then clamp the bare ends of the wires from the satellite speakers onto the terminals. If you've done that and they still don't work, then you should see about getting a warranty return.

MACFIXIT TIPS / Jumbled contacts in Address Book

The Mac OS X *Address Book* usually sorts contacts by first name or last name; however, after updating a system to Snow Leopard, or even with an incremental update for Leopard, contacts may appear jumbled and won't sort properly. Usually, some faulty preferences are to blame, but if you don't use *Address Book* frequently, you may also mistake some interface behaviour for faulty sorting.

One thing to keep in mind about *Address Book* is that it only sorts addresses alphabetically by first name or by last name. While you can click the **Name** title bar (which usually changes the sorting of lists from ascending to descending, and vice versa), the program doesn't recognise this as a command to change sorting orders. This might be a little confusing to people who don't regularly use *Address Book*. The only ways to change the sorting of *Address Book* are in the program's preferences, so first try resetting them and then try removing the **Preferences** file if the first doesn't work.

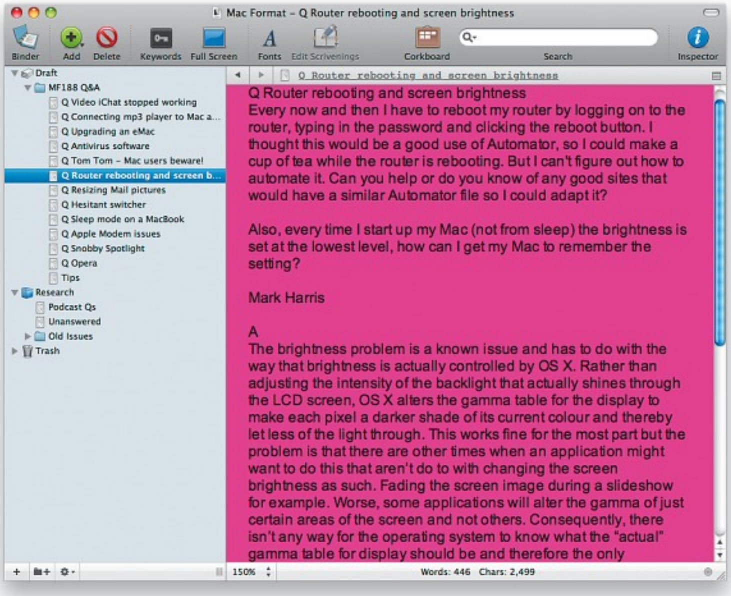
Reapply the sorting settings

Go to the *Address Book* **Preferences** and in the **General** section choose either **First Name** or **Last Name** under the **Sort By** menu. This should reset the settings and organise your contacts properly.

Remove preferences

The address book preferences don't hold many customised options for the program, with LDAP/CardDAV/Exchange accounts being the most configurable items held in the preferences. Try removing the preference file for *Address Book* and try relaunching the program, without losing too many settings. The preference file is called **com.apple.AddressBook.plist** and is located in the /username/Library/Preferences folder.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh
Tips supplied by MacFixit.com



Q Router rebooting and screen brightness
Every now and then I have to reboot my router by logging on to the router, typing in the password and clicking the reboot button. I thought this would be a good use of Automator, so I could make a cup of tea while the router is rebooting. But I can't figure out how to automate it. Can you help or do you know of any good sites that would have a similar Automator file so I could adapt it?

Also, every time I start up my Mac (not from sleep) the brightness is set at the lowest level, how can I get my Mac to remember the setting?

Mark Harris

A
The brightness problem is a known issue and has to do with the way that brightness is actually controlled by OS X. Rather than adjusting the intensity of the backlight that actually shines through the LCD screen, OS X alters the gamma table for the display to make each pixel a darker shade of its current colour and thereby let less of the light through. This works fine for the most part but the problem is that there are other times when an application might want to do this that aren't do to with changing the screen brightness as such. Fading the screen image during a slideshow for example. Worse, some applications will alter the gamma of just certain areas of the screen and not others. Consequently, there isn't any way for the operating system to know what the "actual" gamma table for display should be and therefore the only

Word processor Scrivener enables you to set any background colour you like.

"How do I customise my user interface?"

Q **I set my Windows display so that I always write onto a pale-blue screen. To my dismay, it seems that I can't do this on a Mac, but have to set up each file individually, and only get a blue display by drafting in Online Layout. Have I missed something?**
Jacqueline Castles

A The default colour of windows in With OS X is white. Apps can override this, but it's up to each developer whether they include the option. *TextEdit* or *Pages* don't have this choice, while with *Word* you can use white text on a blue background.

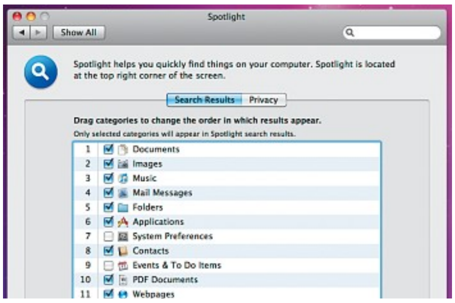
There are other Mac word processors though. *Scrivener* lets you set the default background colour to anything you like. *Scrivener* is a $40 (£25) download from www.literatureandlatte.com. »

QUICK TIP

Instead of clicking the items on *Safari's* bookmark menu, you can hit ⌘+1 to open the first one, ⌘+2 to open the second and so on.

This only works with individual bookmarks, not folders. Also note that reordering the bookmarks on the bar doesn't change the shortcut key, so be warned just in case.

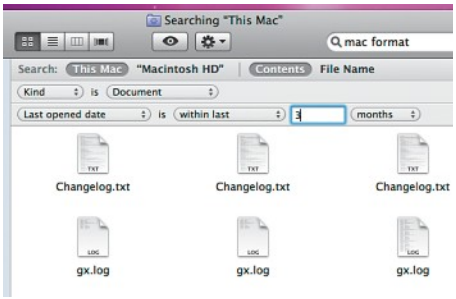
HOW TO / Filter and refine Spotlight searches

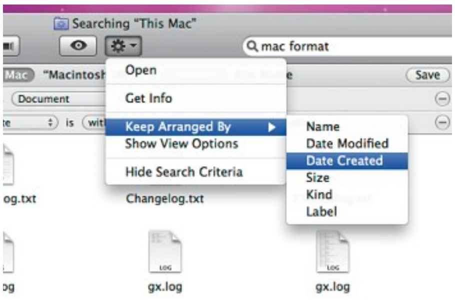


Spotlight helps you quickly find things on your computer. Spotlight is located at the top right corner of the screen.

Drag categories to change the order in which results appear.
Only selected categories will appear in Spotlight search results.

1 ☑ Documents
2 ☑ Images
3 ☑ Music
4 ☑ Mail Messages
5 ☑ Folders
6 ☑ Applications
7 ☐ System Preferences
8 ☑ Contacts
9 ☐ Events & To Do Items
10 ☑ PDF Documents
11 ☑ Webpages





01 What to find

Spotlight returns any files that matches the search criteria, but you can clear the checkboxes in **Spotlight** preferences for any files you don't want. You can also drag the items around so that, for example, documents appear before apps in the results.

02 Filtering further

You can filter your search further by adding extra conditions. Click the **+** icon in *Finder* and request a certain file type or creation date range, for example. Choose from the most common ones or select **Other** to see a big list of possible search conditions.

03 Sort the results

You can click any of the columns in **List View** or **Cover Flow** to sort the search results by that field but Snow Leopard adds the option to do this in **Icon View** as well. Click the **action** button (shaped like a gear) and click **Keep Arranged By**.

QUICK TIP

Have more than one copy of a *Dashboard* widget running at once. Click the **+** icon in the bottom-left of *Dashboard* to bring up the selection bar and add multiple copies. You could have the weather forecast for several cities, for example.

"Can I play games made for Windows on my Mac?"

Q **Macs have great graphics cards, except they don't do much work. There aren't many games for the Mac but I was wondering if there was any way to run a Windows game on a Mac. I came up with an idea: if you got the latest VMware *Fusion* and then put Windows XP on it and installed a game, if you ran it in Utility view would the game work? Also, could you add a shortcut to it in the Applications folder on your Mac?**

Jacob Gelling

A It's definitely possible to run games through *Fusion* (or *Parallels*), but you'll find it's not really the best option. Virtual machine emulators will add an extra layer of processing to fool the application into thinking that it's running on a Windows PC instead of OS X. And this inevitably affects performance and games are the most demanding of applications, even at the best of times.

If you only need to run games from a few years ago, when hardware specifications were lower, *Fusion* on a new Mac will be perfectly acceptable, but for cutting-edge games you'll see a big hit in your frame rate.

A much better solution is to use *Boot Camp*. This enables you to install XP as a separate partition on your hard disk and choose which one to load at boot-time. When your Mac loads XP through *Boot Camp*, it doesn't have any of the overhead of also running OS X at the same time. There shouldn't be any difference in performance compared with a similarly specified PC.

MACFIXIT TIPS / Desktop appears larger than the screen

OS X has a variety of features that help people navigate and view windows and other items, as well as aid people with visual and hearing disabilities. Some of these features are relatively obscure and need to be researched to enable, but others are more easily switched on. One of these, which has puzzled new OS X users, is when the desktop seems to be larger than the extent of the screen, regardless of the resolution being used. This results in the screen moving around with the movement of the mouse.

CNET forum member hbgowest writes: "For some odd reason the screen resolution has increased and is now too big for the actual monitor. So now every time I move my mouse the entire screen inside my monitor moves around with it… I have tried adjusting the display size, thinking that may have been the problem, but it is at 1680x1050, which is the largest it can get on this computer."

The screen zooming enables you to keep the current resolution but magnify the desktop. It is available in the **Universal Access** in *System Preferences*, but also can be enabled by pressing ⌥+⌘+8. If the zoom setting is at any value greater than **0**, the screen will automatically zoom in at this point, and the zoom value can be controlled by pressing ⌥+⌘+= or ⌥+⌘+-.

Tips supplied by MacFixit.com

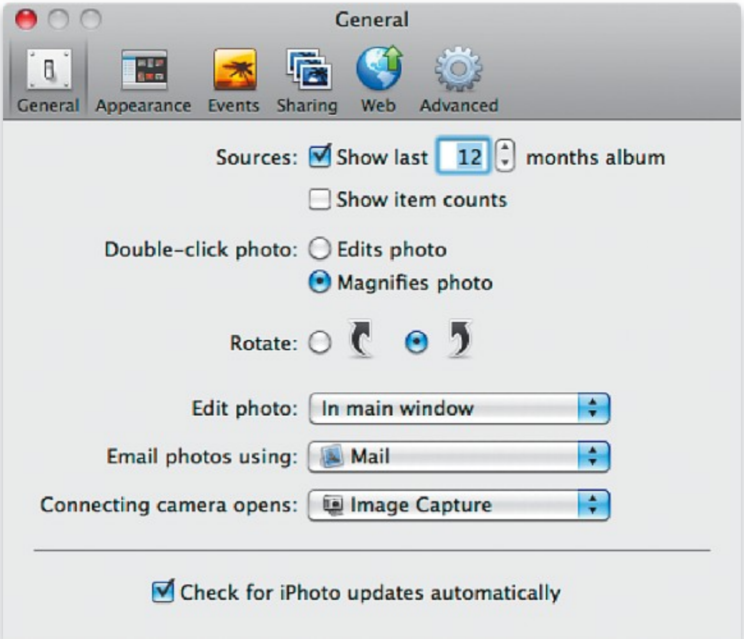
MacFixIt, founded in 1996 by Ted Landau, has grown into the premiere destination for users seeking resolutions to bugs and conflicts. Visit **www.macfixit.com** for the latest Mac information.

MacFixIt
Troubleshooting Solutions for the Macintosh

"Where are my missing image preferences?"

Q **I have to say I breathed a very audible sigh of relief when I saw your remedy in issue 212 (September 2009) to stop *iPhoto* launching every time I sync my iPod touch.**

This "feature" has been driving me crazy for months now. However, it seems that the option to select Other from the Image Capture Preferences pane no longer exists with Snow Leopard (I'm running 10.6.1 on an Intel MacBook Pro) and you can't attach your script. I don't want to go down



Sources: ☑ Show last 12 months album
☐ Show item counts
Double-click photo: ○ Edits photo
● Magnifies photo
Rotate: ○ ●
Edit photo: In main window
Email photos using: Mail
Connecting camera opens: Image Capture
☑ Check for iPhoto updates automatically

Snow Leopard has moved Image Capture preferences around... with flexible results.

the all-or-nothing route of preventing *iPhoto* starting up when I plug in my camera – is there another way in Snow Leopard?
Jamie Gavin

A It's not just the Other option that's gone from *Image Capture*'s Preferences pane – it's the Preferences pane itself! Rather than offer global preferences for the whole application, *Image Capture* now enables you to set preferences per device. If you connect your iPod touch to it and open *Image Capture*, you can now set it to open No Application when connected but leave your camera set to open *iPhoto*.

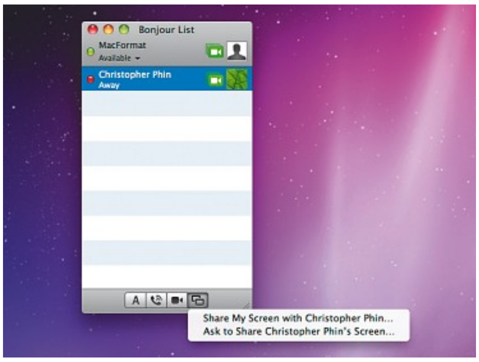
In *iPhoto*'s preferences, you set Connecting camera opens: to Image Capture. This enables you to control which devices open *iPhoto* automatically without needing any AppleScript at all.

"What's up with Leopard's Screen Sharing feature?"

Q **I am the Mac troubleshooter among my friends and now that most of them use Leopard, I increasingly use the Screen Sharing feature in *iChat* to sort out their problems over the phone. Mostly this works except for one friend. Sometimes, when we both have *iChat* open, the Ask to Share Remote Screen... option in the Buddies menu is greyed out. At other times it works fine. I've read this may be a problem with the firewall or router? Also, when it is greyed out, I can still chat with her, both on *iChat* and Gmail chat**
Adam Crosier

A Is your friend sometimes logged into Gmail and *iChat* at the same time? Since both could use the same account name, it is possible that this is confusing *iChat*. Try getting her to log out of Gmail (and possibly reboot) and then just open *iChat*.

There are other things that might prevent screen sharing from working. But I can't think of anything else that would work intermittently in the way you describe. ●


Bonjour List
MacFormat
Available
Christopher Phin
Away
Share My Screen with Christopher Phin...
Ask to Share Christopher Phin's Screen...

You launch Screen Sharing mode from an iChat session.

On the forum

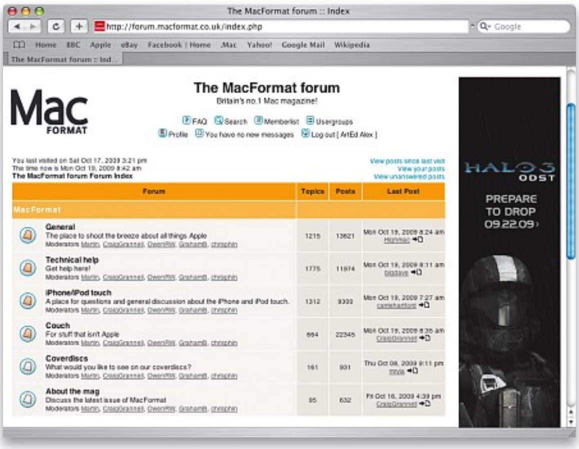
Help and advice from readers

Q My *iTunes* account seems a little undecided about how many computers are authorised to play my purchases. Currently, I have a MacBook Pro unibody, a white MacBook and an iPhone. I also have a MacBook unibody that was damaged beyond repair, and an iPhone that is missing in action. Neither of which were deauthorised. To me, that's five. But my account says only one (which I presume is my MacBook Pro, as I was checking with that machine). And yet, after Snow Leopard was installed, *iTunes* hinted at four being authorised.
MarkHanman Joined: 04 Jun 2007 Posts: 73 Location: No longer near Stirling

A *iTunes* only counts computers, not iPods or iPhones, so by your list it should have three authorised. If you have Windows installed then it will count each operating system as a separate computer. (Running in Windows and Mac on one computer will use up two authorisations.) It's not a problem if you stop using a computer without deauthorising it as when you have run out of registrations you can remotely de-register all computers and start again. I think you can only do this once a year though.
JP_Godfrey Joined: 04 Sep 2004 Posts: 1057

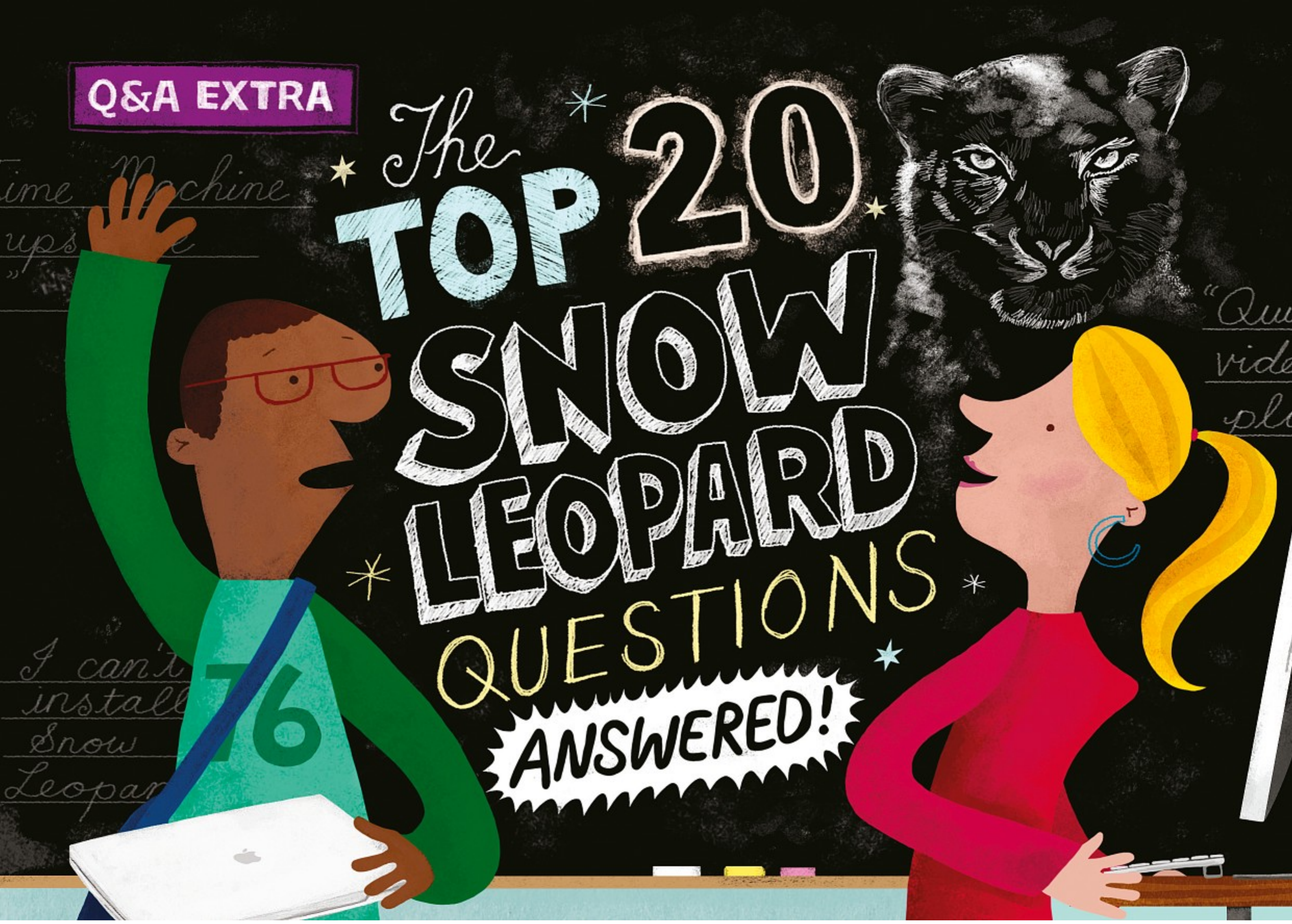
Q Am newly getting to grips with editing in *Final Cut Express* and have bins in **Browser** that can be played in **Viewer**. However, inadvertently I have lost the **Canvas** window and with it, of course, the **Timeline**. Would be glad of guidance as to how to restore **Canvas** and **Timeline** windows – and also what I have probably done to lose them so I avoid a repeat.
George Hunt Joined: 07 Feb 2009 Posts: 3

A In the Browser window and Project tab, have you tried double-clicking on the Sequence icon? As for the rest disappearing, you might have clicked on one of the sequence options in the View menu.
linuxuser Joined: 03 Apr 2005 Posts: 1302



Join our forum and join in the fun at
http://forum .macformat.co.uk

Q&A EXTRA



The TOP 20 SNOW LEOPARD QUESTIONS ANSWERED!

Upgrading OS X always throws up a few problems for some Mac users. **Luis Villazon** looks at the 20 most common issues you have found in Snow Leopard 10.6 and comes up with the best solutions

"Exposé leaves windows in the background"

01 The Application Window mode of *Exposé* is designed to let you switch between multiple document windows open in just the current application, rather than between every single open window. In 10.5, selecting a document would bring this one to the foreground, but it would also bring all the other open windows for that application to the front as well (right behind the one you selected). This was changed in Snow Leopard so that only the document you choose moves forward and the others stay where they are. If you want to bring the whole application to the foreground, the simplest way to do it is to use ⌥+⇥ to switch to that application, rather than going anywhere near *Exposé*.

"Can I stop the screensaver from closing?"

02 If your screensaver cuts out as soon as it begins, check to see if you're running *Caffeine* (http://lightheadsw.com). This menu bar utility will let you temporarily prevent your Mac from going to sleep or starting up the screensaver. But a small incompatibility with 10.6 was preventing the screensaver from running, even when *Caffeine* was clicked off. Download the latest version of *Caffeine* to fix this.

"I can't log in as root user when using Terminal"

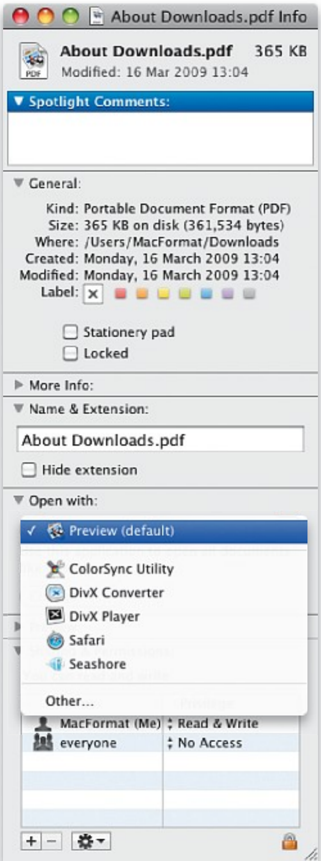
03 The root account is now disabled by default. It is possible to enable it using the *Directory Utility* application (which now lives in System/ Library/ CoreServices) but there's good reason not to. The fact is that there's virtually nothing you can do when logged in as root, that you cannot do more safely using the sudo command in *Terminal*.

"My Time Machine backups are broken"

04 If you're using Apple Filing Protocol (AFP) shares to back up to a network disk, you may find that *Time Machine* can't find the network volume. This is because Snow Leopard checks that the volume is writing journaling data all the way to the disk, to preserve data integrity. You can fool it into accepting your volume by using a script at http://tinyurl.com/nyc8jx but network outages could corrupt your backup volume. A safer solution is to use AFP-compatible network disks, or attach a backup drive directly to your Mac.

HOW CAN I CHANGE HOW STACKS DISPLAY?
"Address Book and Mail crash!"
HOW CAN I FIND HIDDEN FILES?
ckTime
os won't
ay"
"Keybo
short
for
appl
s"
"Exp
leaves
win
in
the
kground"
MAC OSX

Illustration by Linzie Hunter


About Downloads.pdf Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
More Info:
Name & Extension:
Open with:
ColorSync Utility
DivX Converter
DivX Player
Safari
Seashore
Other…

About Downloads.pdf 365 KB
Modified: 16 Mar 2009 13:04

Kind: Portable Document Format (PDF)
Size: 365 KB on disk (361,534 bytes)
Where: /Users/MacFormat/Downloads
Created: Monday, 16 March 2009 13:04
Modified: Monday, 16 March 2009 13:04

☐ Stationery pad
☐ Locked

About Downloads.pdf

☐ Hide extension

✓ Preview (default)

MacFormat (Me) Read & Write
everyone No Access

Access a file's Get Info panel to change which application is used to open it.

"Files don't open in the right application"

05 Snow Leopard changes the way that OS X decides which app to run when you double-click a file. In 10.5 and earlier, files opened in the app used to create them, via a code stored in the file's metadata – unless you overrode this using the Open With menu. Snow Leopard now uses the information in Get Info. This means that TXT files will open in *TextEdit*, even if they were created in a different text editor. To change this, edit the Get Info window for that file.

"How can I change the Stacks display?"

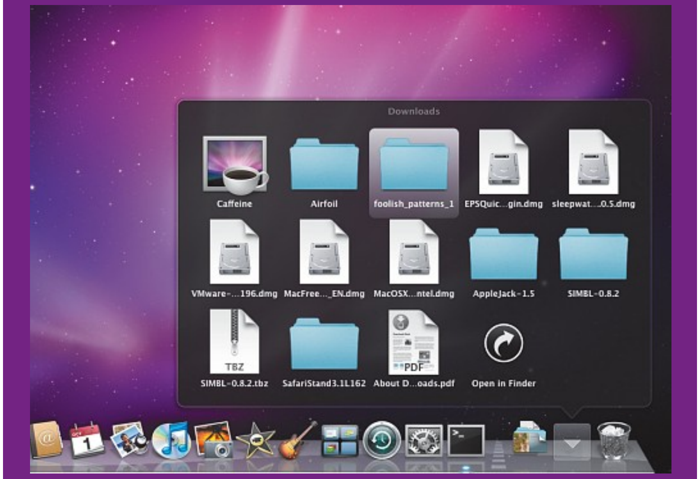
06 As well as the Grid and List views for Stacks in the Dock, there's a hidden third view that's a mix between the two. To enable it, open *Terminal* and type:

```
defaults write com.apple.dock use-new-list-stack -bool yes
killall Dock
```

"How do I get a Stack's items to be highlighted on mouseover?"

07 In Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard, there was a hidden preference key that caused **Stack** items to automatically highlight as you moused over them. This is also possible in OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard, but the preference key has changed name (possibly because the original key contained a typo). It also works in **Stacks**' **Fan** view, which the previous version did not. To enable this feature, open *Terminal* and type:

```
defaults write com.apple.dock mouse-over-hilite-stack -boolean yes
killall Dock
```


Downloads
Caffeine
Airfoil
foolish_patterns_1
EPSQuic...gin.dmg
sleepwat....0.5.dmg
VMware-...196.dmg
MacFree..._EN.dmg
MacOSX...ntel.dmg
AppleJack-1.5
SIMBL-0.8.2
SIMBL-0.8.2.tbz
SafariStand3.1L162
About D...oads.pdf
Open in Finder

With the correct preference setting you can have a Stack item automatically highlight under the mouse pointer, whether the Stack is in Fan or Grid view.

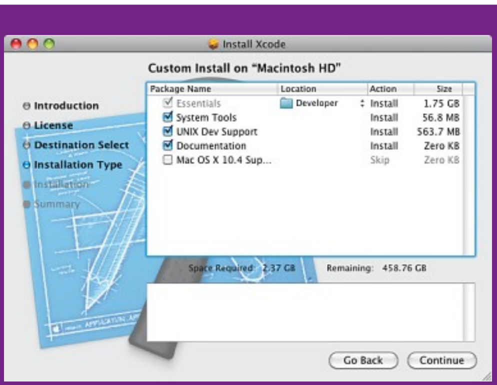
»

“Can keyboard shortcuts open applications?”

08 Some third-party utilities let you launch applications with keyboard shortcuts. But Snow Leopard now lets you do this directly, using the revamped *Automator*. Use the **Service** template and you’ll find that **Launch Application** is now an action. Set **Service receives** to **no input** and save it. Set a shortcut to this workflow using the **Keyboard Shortcuts** tab of the **Keyboard** *System Preferences* panel.

“Where have some of the preferences gone?”

11 Snow Leopard rearranged a lot of the *System Preferences* panes and in particular the **Archives**, **Disk Images** and **Processors** panels were removed. The **Disk Images** pane isn’t needed at all, but the other two are in **Developer/Extras/PreferencePanes/Processor.prefPane** and **System/Library/CoreServices/Archive Utility.app/Contents/Resources/Archives.prefPane**. If you double-click these files to reinstall them, Snow Leopard will insist they are already there, so delete everything from **Library/PreferencePanes** first.



Custom Install on “Macintosh HD”

Package Name	Location	Action	Size
☑ Essentials	Developer	Install	1.75 GB
☑ System Tools		Install	56.8 MB
☑ UNIX Dev Support		Install	563.7 MB
☑ Documentation		Install	Zero KB
☐ Mac OS X 10.4 Sup...		Skip	Zero KB

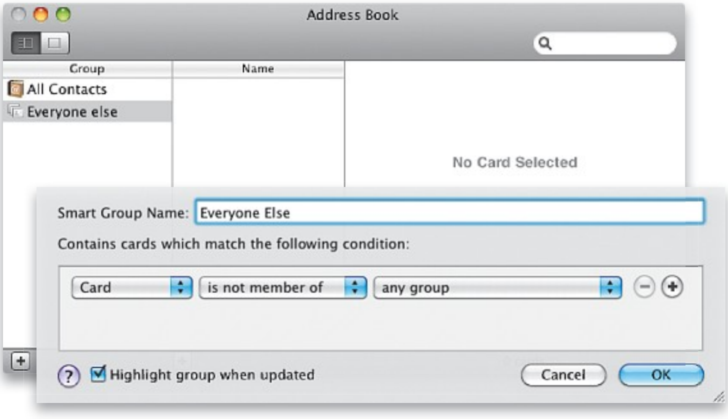
Space Required: 2.37 GB Remaining: 458.76 GB

The preference panes are in the XCode section of your install DVD.

“Address Book and Mail crash at the same time!”

09 Many of you have reported *Address Book* showing no **Contacts** in its list and then immediately freezing, requiring a **Force Quit**. Subsequently, *Mail* may appear to start correctly but then crash as soon as it needs to access the *Address Book*.

The problem lies with **Smart Groups** in *Address Book*. If you have a **Smart Group** that includes a negative condition (such as ‘Card is not a member of any group’), the *Address Book* database can become corrupted during the upgrade to 10.6. If you have a full backup taken from before the move to Snow Leopard, you could restore it, delete the **Smart Group** and reinstall. But there’s a quicker solution that doesn’t require you to remove Snow Leopard. Delete **Library/Application Support/Address Book/AddressBook-V22.abcddb** and then search through the **MetaData** subfolder for filenames containing the word ‘smart’. Delete any that relate to groups with negative conditions and restart *Address Book*.



Smart Group Name: Everyone Else

Contains cards which match the following condition:

Card | is not member of | any group

☑ Highlight group when updated

Deleting Smart Groups will restore your missing contacts in Address Book.

“How can I find and open a single hidden file?”

12 Previous versions of OS X would hide any hidden files on your system unless you changed the preference key in *Terminal* to display them. However, doing this makes all hidden files visible in all folders until you change the preference key back again. If all you want to do is open a single hidden file, that’s a bit excessive. Alternatively, you can make them temporarily visible from within the **Open** dialog itself. Press ⌘+⇧+. to toggle hidden files on and off. This only works in the **Open** and **Save** dialogs, not in ordinary *Finder* windows.

“How do I get rid of the blue glow in Exposé?”

13 There’s no preference pane option to control this aspect of *Exposé*, but you can hack it. Navigate to **System\ Library\ Core services** and right-click **Dock**. Choose **Show Package Contents** from the context menu and navigate through to **Contents\ Resources**. The two files you’re interested in are **expose-window-selection-big.png** and **expose-window-selection-small.png**. The second one is just for windows minimised to the **Dock**. Use an image editor such as *Seashore* to change the colour of these image files without altering the transparency, then save the result.

Be warned, however: doing this will mean the **Dock**’s digital signature no longer matches the reference value used by Apple, meaning it will be denied access to the keychain. If ever it needs access, you may need to reinstall the **Dock** or restore from backup.

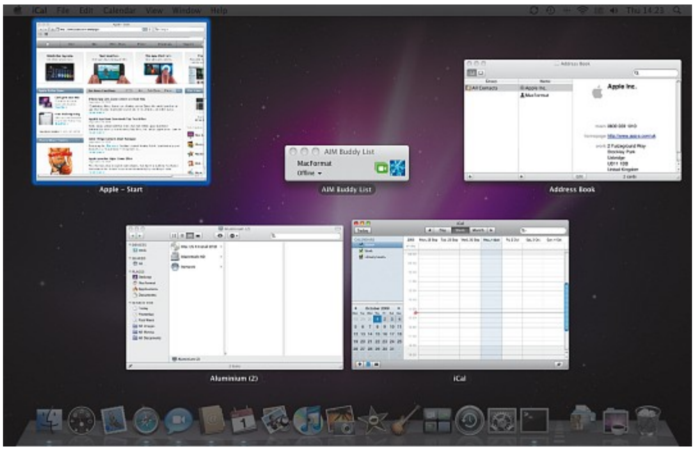
Apple - Mac
Welcome to the Appl...e - Apple Store (U.S.)
Apple - Start
Apple - Download re...es. Play it all on iPod.
Apple - Support
Apple - iPhone - Mo... and Internet device.
Apple - Downloads

If Exposé doesn’t play nicely with Spaces, check for any corrupt preferences.

“Exposé doesn’t work on the Dock when I’m using Spaces”

10 New to Snow Leopard is the ability to activate **Application Window** mode in *Exposé* by holding the mouse down on an application’s icon in the **Dock**. However, some people have found that this doesn’t work terribly well when combined with *Spaces*. If you click on a window that’s on a different space, it doesn’t always move you across to that space. This seems to be related to a corrupted **Dock** preference file. So drag **Library\ Preferences\ com.apple.dock.plist** to the **Trash** and then restart the **Dock** by typing **killall Dock** in *Terminal*.

Alternatively, it may just be that you have a box unchecked in your *System Preferences*, called **When switching to an application, switch to a space with open windows for the application**.


Apple – Start
AIM Buddy List
Address Book
Aluminium (2)
iCal

The blue Exposé glow stands out around windows, but that's the only thing in its favour.

"The icons from the menu bar have vanished"

14 If you use any utilities that modify the menu bar, such as *iStat Menus*, occasionally other menu icons may randomly appear and disappear. This is caused by incompatibilities in those menu extensions; you should upgrade or uninstall the utilities concerned to correct the problem.

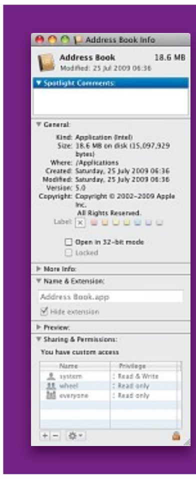
"Snow Leopard won't install on the hard disk"

15 If you've experimented with *Boot Camp* in the past and subsequently removed Windows, the installer may refuse to put Snow Leopard on your internal hard disk. This is because the partition map for your hard disk doesn't always get properly updated when *Boot Camp* is removed. You can fix this in *Disk Utility*, accessed from the Utilities menu of the installer. Select the hard disk, click the Partition tab and move the partition line away and then back again. Click Apply to rewrite the partition map.

Alternatively, provided there's nothing important on it, you could delete and recreate the partition.

"Can line breaks be added in Text Substitution?"

16 The Language & Text *System Preferences* pane has a list of autoreplace sequences, so that (c) gets replaced with © and so on. You can also add your own. If you include \n in the replacement text, this will be expanded to a line break when the substitution is made. This is useful for adding your address to the top of a letter, for example. You can also enter the text in *TextEdit* and then paste it into the Language & Text pane as the replacement text.


Address Book Info
Spotlight Comments:
General:
More Info:
Name & Extension:
Preview:
Sharing & Permissions:

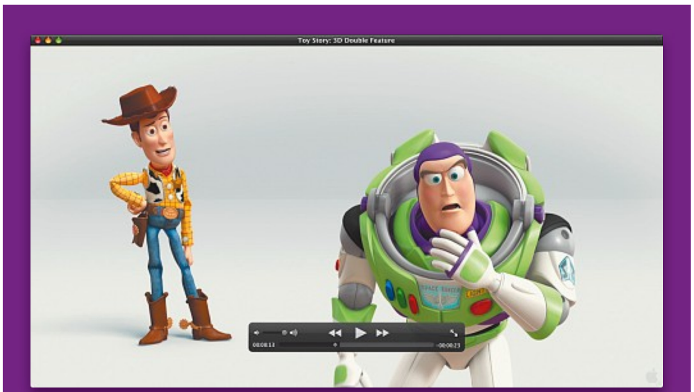
Address Book 18.6 MB
Modified: 25 Jul 2009 06:36

Kind: Application (Intel)
Size: 18.6 MB on disk (15,097,929 bytes)
Where: /Applications
Created: Saturday, 25 July 2009 06:36
Modified: Saturday, 25 July 2009 06:36
Version: 5.0
Copyright: Copyright © 2002–2009 Apple Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Label: ☒
☐ Open in 32-bit mode
☐ Locked
Address Book.app
☑ Hide extension
You have custom access

Name	Privilege
system	Read & Write
wheel	Read only
everyone	Read only

"I can't change application icons"

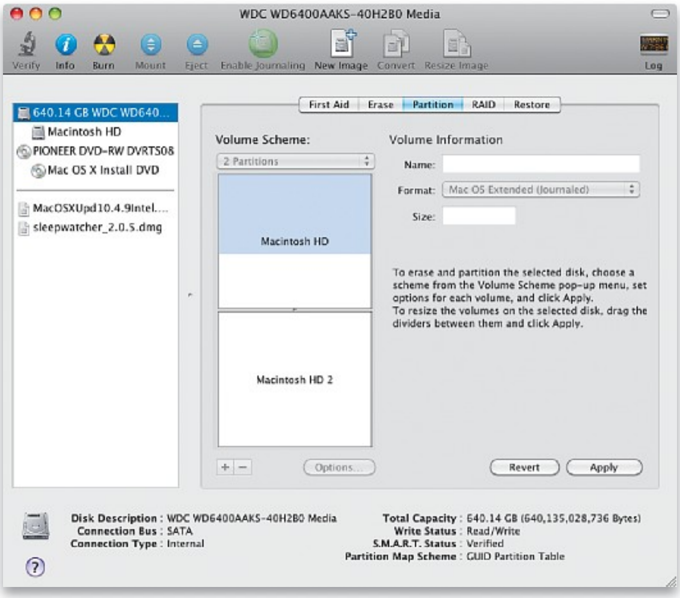
17 The old technique of copying and pasting icons from one file to another in the **Get Info** panel doesn't work anymore in Snow Leopard for all the Apple applications. This is because the file permissions for these files are set to read-only for all users except root. There are two ways around this: you can just set the **Permissions** to **read-write** for that file (you'll obviously need to supply the administrator password for this); or you can quit *Finder* and relaunch it as root from *Terminal*. Type **sudo /System/Library/CoreServices/Finder.app/Contents/MacOS/Finder**.


Toy Story: 3D Double Feature
00:08:11
-00:00:23

If you know the right preference key you can still auto-play your movies.

"QuickTime X won't auto-play"

18 Snow Leopard has removed the preferences pane for the new *QuickTime* player but the preference keys still exist – use *Terminal* to set *QuickTime* to automatically play a movie when it opens, without you having to click the play button first. Type the following: **defaults write com.apple.QuickTimePlayerX MGPlayMovieOnOpen 1**.


WDC WD6400AAKS-40H2B0 Media
Verify
Info
Burn
Mount
Eject
Enable Journaling
New Image
Convert
Resize Image
Log
640.14 GB WDC WD640...
Macintosh HD
PIONEER DVD-RW DVRTS08
Mac OS X Install DVD
MacOSXUpd10.4.9Intel....
sleepwatcher_2.0.5.dmg
First Aid
Erase
Partition
RAID
Restore
Volume Scheme:
Volume Information
Name:
Format:
Size:
Macintosh HD
Macintosh HD 2
Options...
Revert
Apply

Volume Scheme: 2 Partitions
Format: Mac OS Extended (Journaled)

To erase and partition the selected disk, choose a scheme from the Volume Scheme pop-up menu, set options for each volume, and click Apply.
To resize the volumes on the selected disk, drag the dividers between them and click Apply.

Disk Description : WDC WD6400AAKS-40H2B0 Media
Connection Bus : SATA
Connection Type : Internal
Total Capacity : 640.14 GB (640,135,028,736 Bytes)
Write Status : Read/Write
S.M.A.R.T. Status : Verified
Partition Map Scheme : GUID Partition Table

Resetting your partition table will enable Snow Leopard to install on your main drive.

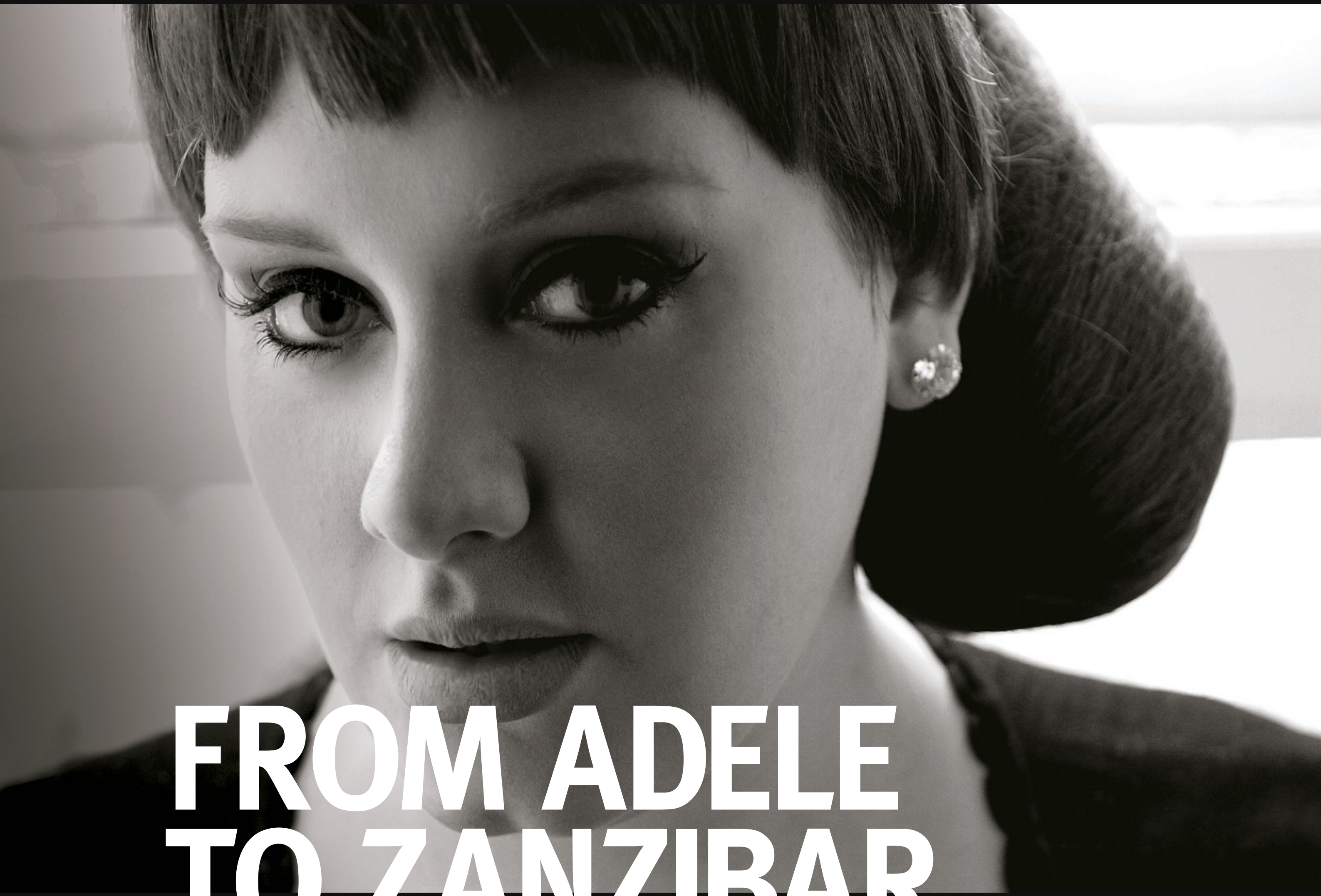
"I can't run Windows apps via Parallels"

19 If you're still using an old version of *Parallels Desktop* (*2.5* or earlier), Snow Leopard's installer moves it to an Incompatible Software folder on your hard drive. The latest version of *Parallels* (4.0) is fully compatible with Snow Leopard, however it costs £25 to upgrade. You can find a list of other incompatible software at http://support.apple.com/kb/HT3258.

"QuickTime videos simply refuse to play"

20 The new *QuickTime X* may report for certain video files that 'The document cannot be opened'. This appears to be a problem with the reading of AC3 soundtracks. Just switching to the stereo version of the track doesn't help, but you can open the file in *QuickTime 7* and remove the AC3 soundtrack completely. Of course, you could just play the file in *QuickTime 7* instead. ●

emusic



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T.REX
ADELE 19
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JOHNNY CASH
BECK MODERN GUILT
FLEET FOXES
CAT POWER JUKEBOX
INCREDIBLE BONGO BAND "BONGO ROCK"

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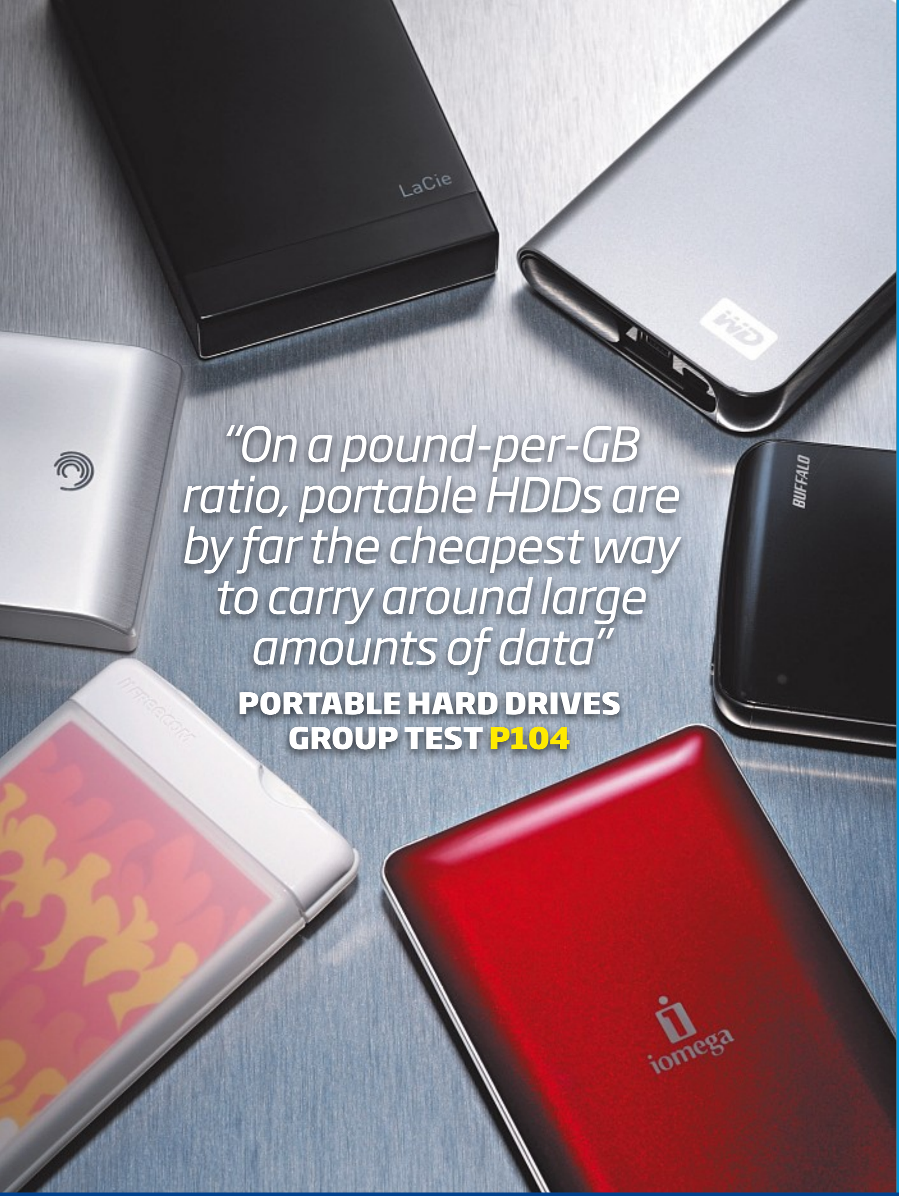
mp3 100% COMPATIBLE



"On a pound-per-GB ratio, portable HDDs are by far the cheapest way to carry around large amounts of data"

PORTABLE HARD DRIVES GROUP TEST P104

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Reviews

HARDWARE • SOFTWARE • iPHONE APPS • SHAREWARE • GAMES

Ian Osborne
Reviews Editor

There's something for everyone in this issue's software reviews. For IT specialists and systems administrators, there's a two-page assessment of Snow Leopard Server. It's just as easy to use as the client edition of Mac OS X 10.6, and boasts a host of new features. *iCal Server 2* enables you to share calendars, coordinate events and schedule meetings; with *Podcast Producer 2* you can quickly produce podcasts, while *Address Book Server* is ideal for synchronising your contacts over multiple devices. And, of course, there's Snow Leopard Server's *Mobile Access Server*, which lets you connect from a range of mobile devices such as an iPhone. Read all about it on Page 86.

Photoshop Elements is a well-regarded consumer version of the pro-level Adobe *Photoshop* application. If you want to get the most out of your digital art and photography, check out our review on Page 84. Finally, database application *FileMaker Bento 3* is aimed at the home user, but its powerful features make it a credible option for small businesses too. Read our review on Page 89.

» OUR LOGOS

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★	A product that receives the MacFormat Choice award is the best in its class when reviewed.
Mac FORMAT Winner!	Used in our Group Tests, MacFormat Winner indicates the product that we feel stands out.
Mac FORMAT On the disc	This logo indicates there are either test versions or files associated with the review on the disc.

RATINGS EXPLAINED: ★★★★★ Excellent ★★★★☆ Very good ★★★☆☆ Good ★★☆☆☆ Adequate ★☆☆☆☆ Poor

>> IMAGE-EDITING SOFTWARE

Photoshop Elements 8 for Mac

£75 One of the best-value packages available but is it worth upgrading to the latest version?

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Adobe
www.adobe.com/products/photoshopelmac/

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Multi-Core Intel Processor **OS**: Mac OS 10.4.11 - 10.6, **RAM:** 512MB RAM (1GB recommended) **Disk space:** 1GB hard-drive space **Other:** DVD drive, QuickTime 7

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Comes with Adobe RAW plug-in
- ⊕ Scene Cleaner declutters shots
- ⊕ Great Recompose tool
- ⊕ Smart Brush for special effects
- ⊖ Won't work with PowerPC Macs
- ⊖ Interface a little gloomy

VERDICT

★★★★½

"There are lots of exciting tools in Elements 8 offering virtually all the controls you need at a truly affordable price."

You enjoy using *iPhoto* and you've found that it's great for storing photos. You use it for editing but you're getting a bit frustrated with the rather basic editing tools on offer. If that sounds like you then read no further. Go and buy a copy of *Photoshop Elements 8* now and discover the joys of a great piece of software that is 85% 'full-fat' *Photoshop* at just 20% of the price. Off you go!

As for the rest of you *Photoshop Elements* owners, should you upgrade or is it a wheeze to get £70 from you every 18 months? Well, there are plenty of good reasons to upgrade, although if you only use the basic image adjustment features you may not be too bothered. If you haven't upgraded since *Elements 6* then do so. It's excellent value and you're missing out on some big improvements that are well worth having. This release has been launched at the same time as the PC version. Usually Mac owners have to wait months to catch up with the Dark Side, so full marks to Adobe for being considerate.

Going grey

Elements 8 has a slate-grey interface that's quite at odds with the whiter interfaces of most Mac apps. However, it helps you adjust your photos properly by surrounding them with a neutral background. It's a good idea but it can be a strain on the eyes because some of the dark-coloured tools in the **Toolbox** can blend into the background. Fortunately you can lighten the interface by ticking a box in the **Preferences**.

On the right of the interface are three workflow tabs. The first is for editing. You can either select **Edit Full** for total manual control, **Edit Quick**, which is actually very good for making quick and basic changes to your photos, or **Edit Guided**. This third option takes you by the hand and offers lots of help and sickly effects that you'll either love or hate depending on how proficient you are with image editing.

The second tab is the **Create** tab. Use this to produce things like photo books, web galleries, prints and slideshows. It even helps you to make CD/DVD jackets and labels for your photo library. Its purpose is to take you further with your photos once you've edited them in the first tab.

The final tab is the **Share** tab. This is where you share your photos by uploading them to web galleries, emailing them to friends or burning them to a CD. The functions are all simple to use and very accessible.

At this point we ought to mention that *Elements 8* also comes with an application called *Bridge*. This is a sorting and cataloguing tool that works similarly to *iPhoto*. If you already use *iPhoto* as your catalogue then you can simply tell it to use *Elements* as your external image editor. Apple's application is much better for most users and offers face and geo-tagging as well as a heap of other plug-ins.

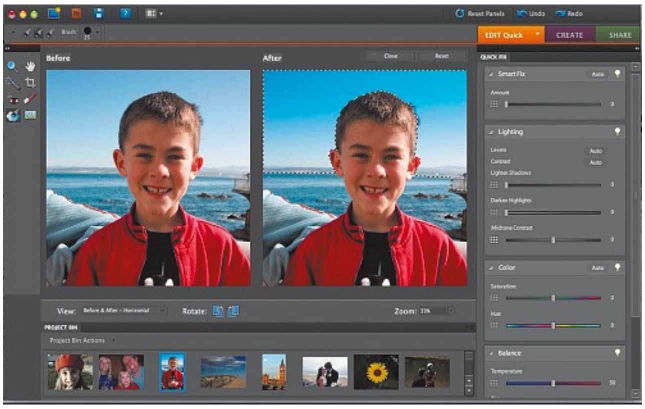
So what are the new and meaty features that come with *Elements 8*? Perhaps top of the list for serious photographers is the access to the latest Adobe RAW plug-in so you can import RAW shots from the newest models of digital SLRs.

> *"There are plenty of reasons to upgrade, but if you only use the basic image adjustment features you may not be too bothered"*

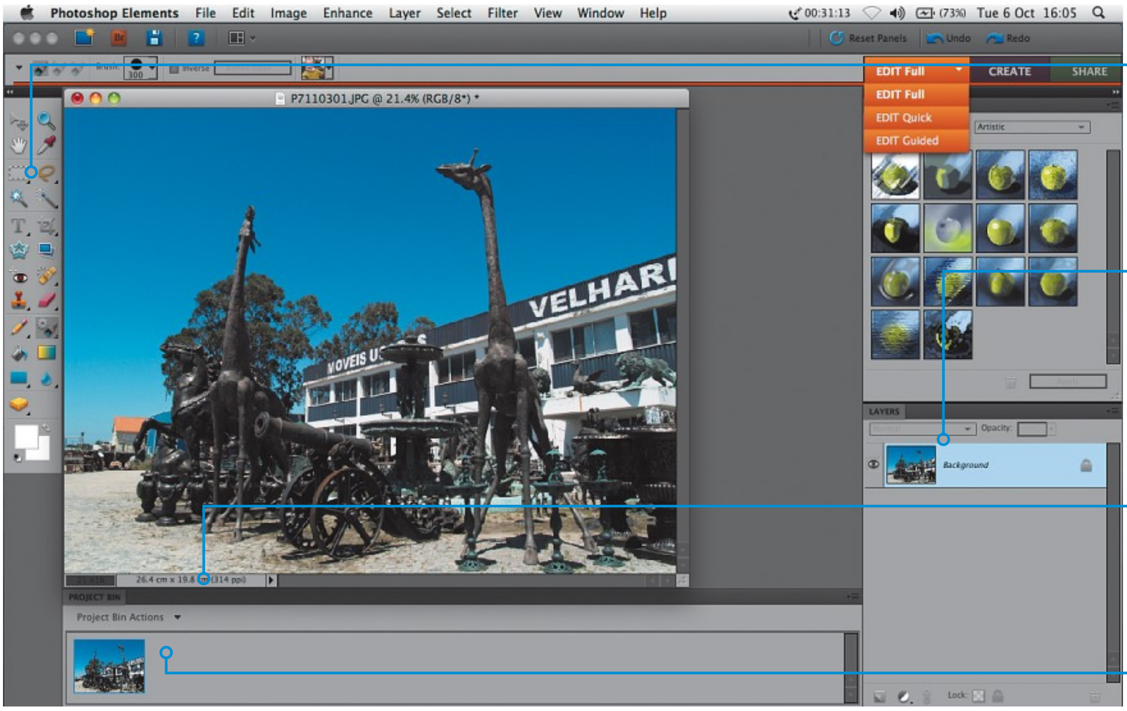
The latest Elements comes with interesting new features.

ADOBE PHOTOSHOP ELEMENTS 8
ADOBE® PHOTOSHOP® ELEMENTS 8
Adobe

If your skies look a little anaemic, select the Bluer Skies tool and inject some colour into your shot.



HOW TO / Find your way around the slick grey interface



Extended Toolbar

Some extra tools have been added to the **Toolbar**, most notably the **Smart Brush**.

Layers Palette

The **Layers Palette** is indispensible for advanced users.

Tabbed Workflow

The **Edit**, **Create** and **Share** tabs offer a natural workflow.

Project Bin

Put the images you want to work on with the **Photomerge** tools here.

Artistically, there are several interesting new features on offer. However, you'll find that while some are trivial and others are damnably clever, too. The **Bluer Skies** and **Toothbrush** tools do exactly what they say. If you want the world to be a place of impossibly azure skies where no one has yellow teeth then go ahead and create your own reality distortion field. There's also a **Smart Brush** so you can paint on special effects to any part of an image.

Tools of the trade

More interesting though, are the **Recompose** tool, **Scene Cleaner** and **Exposure Photomerge** functions. All three of these come straight from *Photoshop CS4*. **Recompose** uses scene splicing to chop out slices of a scene to bring, say, individuals closer together in a shot, and it does so without any distortion. It's clever and it works most of the time.

Architectural photographers will enjoy using the **Scene Cleaner**. If you've ever tried to shoot a building without passers-by getting in the way, then you'll love it. Just take several shots of the same scene over a short period then use **Scene Cleaner** to stack the shots together and subtract the changes between each exposure. Suddenly that picture of St Mark's in Venice can be cleared of all those pesky tourists!

The **Exposure Photomerge** is a simple HDR (High Dynamic Range) tool. Take photos of a scene with bracketed exposures and then let *Elements* blend them together to give you the best dynamic range possible. It's smart and less fuss than traditional HDR techniques.

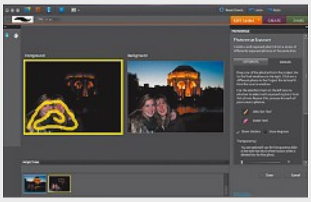
There are a few other features of note. For instance, **Surface Blur** can really help to remove wrinkles or soften the surface of an object while keeping everything else sharp. There's a whole slew of new guided edits, including a handy slimming tool that can get you back into shape quicker than you can say WeightWatchers. You can also combine filters into powerful new multi-filters that are applied in one action. There are heaps more little effects to discover, such as **pencil sketch** and one to create old-fashioned photos. It all adds up to the best *Photoshop Elements* ever.

Mark Sparrow

TOP 3 FEATURES / Get the perfect photo

Paint special effects selectively

Select the **Smart Brush** and then choose from a range of effects, which you can then simply paint on your image. The possibilities are endless and it makes applying special effects a real doddle.



Squeeze more detail from a scene

HDR Lite takes bracketed images of the same subject and lets *Elements* stack the shots together for extra dynamic range, to be blended into one image without an overcooked HDR look.

Recompose for more pleasing pics

The recompose tool lets you protect areas of a photo or mark out areas that you want to be rid of. You can then adjust the composition without distorting the protected areas of the shot.

>>OPERATING SYSTEM

Snow Leopard Server 10.6

£399 More than just files, it shares email, calendars, addresses, wikis, blogs and iChat

CONTACTS

Developer: Apple
www.apple.com/uk

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Any Mac with an Intel processor **RAM:** 2GB RAM and 10GB of available disk space

SPECIFICATIONS

Includes: File sharing, Mail services, Web Hosting, iCal Server 2, Podcast Producer 2, Wiki Server 2, Address Book Server, Mobile Access Server, iChat Server, Spotlight Server, Client management, Networking VPN

PROS & CONS

+ Unlimited client licence
+ Low cost
+ Easy setup and administration
+ Full suite of services
– Address Book sharing 10.6 only
– Intel only

VERDICT

★★★★½

"For Mac-only environments it's a no-brainer. If you're in a mixed environment, then there are issues, but for most small users the immense functionality outweighs the cost."

Forget 'think different', the motto for the £29 Snow Leopard upgrade was 'think thin': hold the new features and concentrate on making it lean and fast. At £399, Snow Leopard Server 10.6 is cheaper too: its motto is 'bigger, better, faster, more'.

'64-bit kernel' might not mean much to desktop users, but on a server it means you can access more memory, keeping more balls in the air at one time and making applications and data access faster. Apple has in fact just released a server edition of the Mac mini (£800), adding 4GB of memory, dual 500GB hard drives and a copy of Snow Leopard Server 10.6.

Successfully simple

Server's mission is to keep things simple – no arcane training required. Installation is as simple as the client version. (The only technical issue: to access server services from the internet you need a fixed IP number and a DNS entry from your ISP.) After restart, a Next Steps hints and tips document tailored to your installation appears on the desktop. In use, Admin is via the *Server Preferences* app: here you add users, control the services offered and check on how things are running. (But, if you really must get under the hood, the old *Server Admin*, *Workgroup Manager*, and *XGrid Admin* tools are still there.)

Server 10.6 provides file sharing for Mac, Windows and UNIX (Linux) users via standard protocols – AFP, SMB and NFS. The 64-bit optimisations offer substantial speed improvements – more than double for non-Mac clients. Like 10.5, it supports centralised *Time Machine* backups but they still tend to devour your storage.

"Server's mission is to keep things simple – no arcane training required. Installation is as simple as the client version"

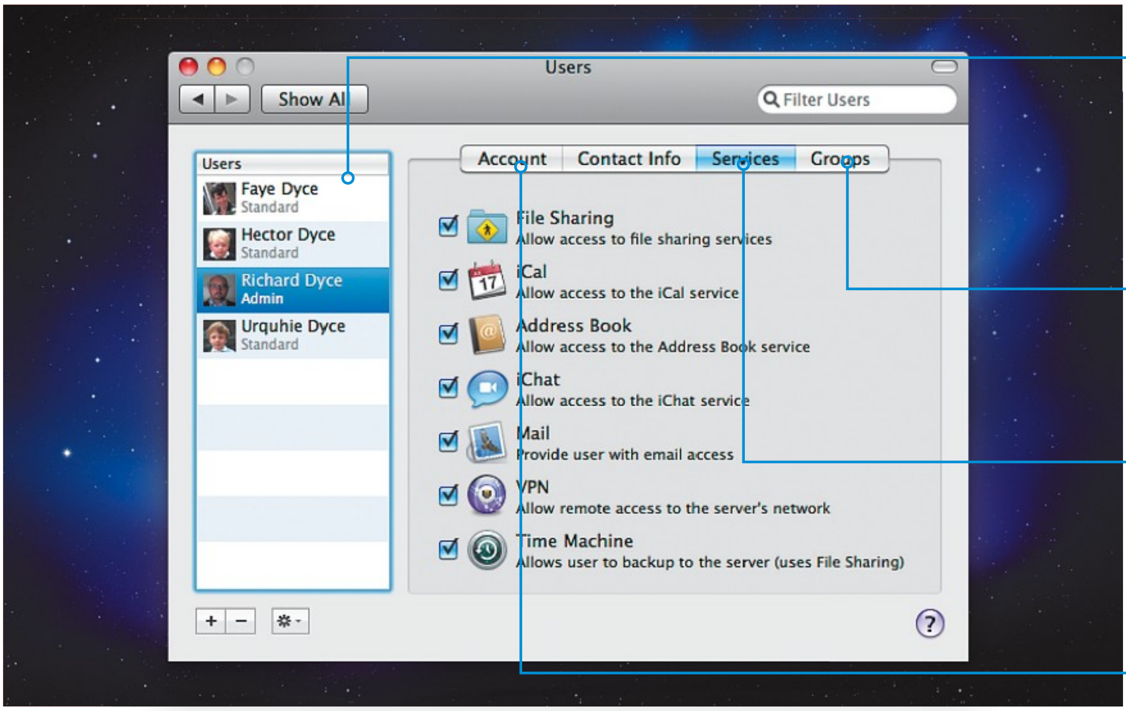
Apple claims the re-written *Mail Server* is twice as fast, faster than a dedicated Sun Java Messaging Server. It seamlessly ties into the users and groups, every new user automatically gets an email account, and new groups get mailing lists. Standard mail protocols cater to Mac and PC clients, plus there's a built-in webmail client. iPhone users get push email, and server-side rules for pre-filtering emails and out-of-office replies. Security-wise, there are spam and virus filters and support for blacklist servers. Small businesses take note: internal emails need never cross your firewall, and users won't need advert-laden Gmail accounts on Google servers. (Server includes *iChat Server*, so problems with careless users IMing attachments through your firewall also vanish.)

iCal Server 2 offers improved calendar sharing. You can view others' schedules, book rooms and search for the next slot when all invitees are free. With push notifications and improved iPhone support, there's no need to sync your iPhone to get diary updates.

Snow Leopard Server 10.6 runs on everything from a Mac mini to a G5.

Mac OS X Server

HOW TO / Add users, select services and control access



Users
Faye Dyce Standard
Hector Dyce Standard
Richard Dyce Admin
Urquhie Dyce Standard

☑ File Sharing – Allow access to file sharing services
☑ iCal – Allow access to the iCal service
☑ Address Book – Allow access to the Address Book service
☑ iChat – Allow access to the iChat service
☑ Mail – Provide user with email access
☑ VPN – Allow remote access to the server's network
☑ Time Machine – Allows user to backup to the server (uses File Sharing)

Server users list
Add users just as you would in Snow Leopard Client – that is, assuming you're the administrator.

Group users
Control access to server files by adding users to different **Groups**.

Services access
Select the services that each user can access, all from one place.

Contact Info
Add user contact details. Email and chat addresses are automatically added.

Apple (plus Oracle, IBM and Google) are championing CardDAV – an open standard for sharing vCards over HTTP. Using CardDAV, the new *Address Book Server* shares contacts among 10.6 users, so that every user has the latest details. *MS Outlook* has no direct support for CardDAV, but there are third-party plug-ins, and LDAPs still there for PC users (and 10.5 users without *Address Book 5*); Server enables CardDAV users to search these existing services.

Key new features

Server 10.6 also offers external services. Easy-to-configure Apache-based web hosting is a given, but also included are wiki and blog hosting – with Apple's ease-of-use twist. Again, they're integrated into user admin. New users get their own blogs and groups get their own wikis, which are searchable, with per-page or per-search RSS feeds. Given the profusion of users' calendars, blogs, and mail lists, Server offers MyPage, which tracks interesting posts, comments and notifications for you. The coolest feature is online Quick Look: browse to a page from an external PC, click on the icon next to a document and a window with the document's content pops up, even if it's in a non-PC app.

Apple's big new feature, though, is *Podcast Producer 2*, a podcasting suite to simplify standardised podcasts materials – no lecture theatre or training room should be without a copy.

In *Podcast Capture* on your Mac, select a workflow from the server, the podcast type (live feed, document-based, pre-existing video and so on), add a title and description and record. When you're done, *Podcast Producer* takes your material and: adds titles, transitions, watermarks and so on; encodes it; publishes it to a blog, FTP, *iTunes*, or, via Streaming Server, to iPhones; and notifies you that it's done via *iChat*, RSS, Atom, or the wiki.

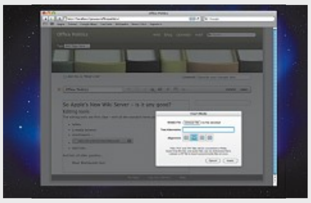
For Mac-only offices, Snow Leopard Server is a no-brainer. There are issues for mixed environments but, for most small users, the huge functionality outweighs the cost. It's impossible to get a Microsoft server solution for the same money, and even then, they'll nickel-and-dime you to death with extra client licensing costs. Ubuntu's Linux server is of course free, and a snap to install. But for ease of use and Mac integration, £400 is a steal.

Richard Dyce

TOP FEATURES / What you can do with Server 10.6

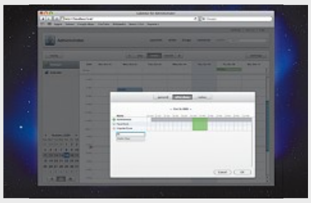
Podcast Composer

You can easily create your own seven-step workflows using *Podcast Composer*, via Apple templates, or layouts created in *Quartz Composer*.



Wiki Server

Forget Joomla and Drupal: the Web 2.0 editing tools included in Server 10.6's wiki are superb, and the whole collaboration environment meshes beautifully.



Web Calendar

iCal is a great calendar app, but the new web-based client is visually as impressive. As close to a Mac app as you'll get, it's also naturally cross-platform.

>> DESKTOP PUBLISHING SOFTWARE

iStudio Publisher 1.1

Mac FORMAT On the disc

€50 (£44) Well-featured, good-value DTP software with lots of potential

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: c:four
www.istudiopublisher.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: G4 800MHz or faster
OS: Mac OS X 10.4 or later **RAM:** 512MB **Hard disk:** 50MB free space

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Excellent range of features
- ⊕ Keen price
- ⊖ Still lots missing in this version
- ⊖ Uneven implementation of Undo

VERDICT

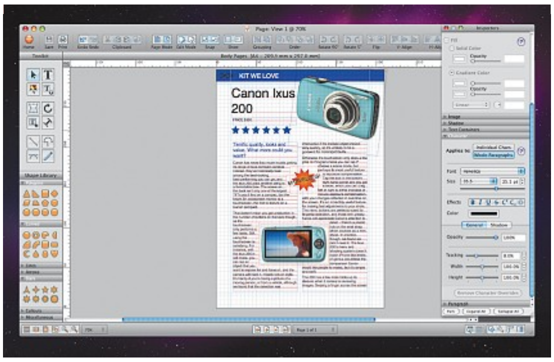
★★★½☆

"Promising, but not currently able to challenge other DTP packages."

Newcomers to the page-design software market have a mountain to climb. As if the overpowering might of Adobe's *InDesign* didn't cast an enormous enough shadow, cheaper options such as Apple's *Pages* and BeLight's *Swift Publisher* are no less formidable. *iStudio 1.1* hurls itself into the fray and first impressions are good. The front-end isn't a thing of beauty but there's no shortage of tools. Text paths are easy to create and there are plenty of pre-designed shapes for those who don't want to create their own.

Changing the elements of your documents falls to the **Inspector** panel to the right-hand side of *iStudio*, and *InDesign* users will be comfortable here – opacity, fills and character properties can all be set.

Those who don't know what they're doing will struggle, though. For an application marketed at home users and small businesses, it's strange that no tutorials are built in, and the limitations continue elsewhere. If you want to export as a PDF, you're unable to determine the size of the document, and the **Undo** command doesn't work with every tool. There are no options to export your document to web formats, and those who want to create their own templates may be frustrated by *iStudio*'s inability to save character settings as bespoke styles.



iStudio supplies the user with a formidable array of professional tools.

But this is a promising application, and *iStudio*'s makers say our concerns will be addressed in free future upgrades. With a very competitive price, this is clearly one to watch.

Dave Stevenson

>> SYSTEM-MONITORING UTILITY

iStat Menus 2.0

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

Mac FORMAT On the disc

FREE Our favourite Mac OS X monitoring tool just got even better – and it's still free

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: iSlayer
http://islayer.com/apps/istatmenus

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5 or later

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Flexible, stable and useful
- ⊕ Fantastic Date & Time module
- ⊕ Well behaved, resource-light
- ⊖ Gradient-happy interface

VERDICT

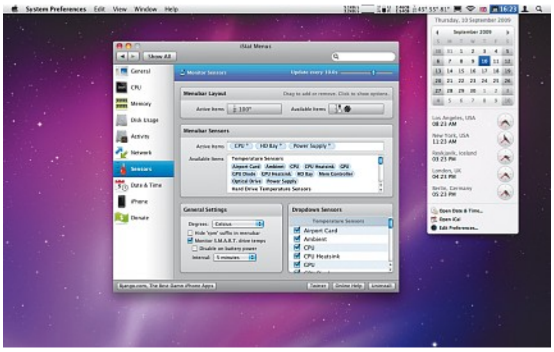
★★★★★

"An essential Mac add-on, even if you only use a few of its many components."

Whenever Mac OS X gets a major update, there's a whiff of panic in the air, due to favourite add-ons suddenly being rendered incompatible. This happened with *iStat Menus* and Snow Leopard, and our Macs felt naked. Luckily, *iSlayer* came to the rescue with a major update of its own.

iStat Menus 2.0 builds on the solid foundations of its predecessor. Via its *System Preferences* pane you add monitoring tools to your menu bar: **CPU**, **Memory**, **Disk Usage**, **Activity** (for disks), **Network**, **Sensors** (for temperatures and fans), and **Date & Time**. For components with multiple items, drag-and-drop actions enable you to choose which to show; for anything that has more advanced configuration, you just check relevant boxes or drag the odd slider. Changes over version 1.x appear to be 'more of everything' – more options, more widgets, more skins. For tinkerers, there's loads of fun to be had exploring.

Once your monitors are running, you can reorder them via ⌘-dragging, and 'advanced' information (component temperatures and fan speeds within **Sensors**, a fantastic calendar and world clock within **Date & Time**, and so on) is accessible via item menus. These also provide access to the relevant configuration pane within *iStat Menus* and related apps (such as *Activity Monitor* and *Console* from the **Memory** item).



iStat Menus provides a simple and efficient way to monitor your system.

iStat Menus 2.0 is robust, stable, well-behaved – and it's still free, so we strongly recommend donating if you like it as much as we do.

Craig Grannell

SIMPLE DATABASE SOFTWARE

FileMaker Bento 3

£30 A significant update that opens up new opportunities for this entry-level database

Bento is rightly billed as a database application, but it doesn't quite fit the mould of most traditional database software. Think of it more as a data organiser that lets you bring together, arrange and view all of your data with the minimum of fuss. Data is organised in Libraries, which would correspond to data tables or files in a conventional database. Within each Library, you can set up multiple Collections that assemble records, either manually or automatically, in the same way that an *iTunes* playlist gathers music tracks together.

Since the beginning, *Bento* has featured close integration with *Address Book* and *iCal*. It creates a Library for each automatically, and enables you to use and modify their data directly. With *Bento 3*, integration has been extended to *iPhoto*, so you can now add pictures to your records or even use *Bento* to catalogue your media with more data options than *iPhoto* itself can provide. Unlike with *iCal* and *Address Book*, though, this is strictly read-only, so you can't use *Bento* to modify any of *iPhoto*'s fields, such as Rating or Date. One other slightly odd limitation is that *Bento* can't see *iPhoto* Events data. If, like many people, you use Events to organise your *iPhoto* library, this may be an issue.

> *"Think of it more as a data organiser that lets you bring together, arrange and view all of your data with the minimum of fuss"*

On the Grid

To go with its ability to display photos, *Bento* offers a new Grid layout that provides a visual overview of your records. This is obviously ideal for pictures, but it can also show a thumbnail view of any form layout.

Other welcome changes include the addition of folders to help organise your libraries, additional themes for forms, and simple list fields, which enable you to put multiple entries into a single field.

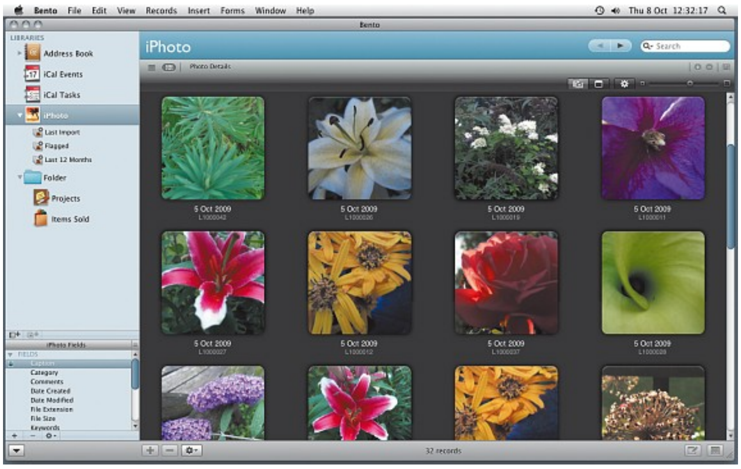
Although it's aimed primarily at home users, *Bento* can work for small businesses too. The stumbling block has always been its lack of security and its inability to share data with other users. Both these objections are swept away in *Bento 3*, which enables you to share your data with up to five users on a network. Once this is set up, any available libraries will be found automatically by *Bonjour*, just like shared *iTunes* libraries and playlists. To provide basic security, you can set a password for the whole database or any library within it, and you can also encrypt individual fields. A separate password controls network access.

Priced at £29.95, *Bento* offers excellent value for money. Even better is the five-user licence for just £59.95. Existing users of *Bento 1* or *2* can claim a £10 rebate when they upgrade, but only for a limited, and unspecified, period. This is clearly a response to the outcry that arose last year when *Bento 2* was released with no discount offered for upgraders. However, if the time limit feels too restrictive, it still may not please all existing *Bento* users.

Mass appeal

Despite a few niggles, *Bento* offers a versatile and uncomplicated approach to databases that should appeal to many people. This latest upgrade is a substantial one that brings many new features and improved usability. With a 30-day free trial available, it's well worth giving it a try.

Jack Weber



iPhoto integration and this new grid view make it easy to incorporate pictures in your records.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: FileMaker
www.filemaker.co.uk

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later

PROS & CONS

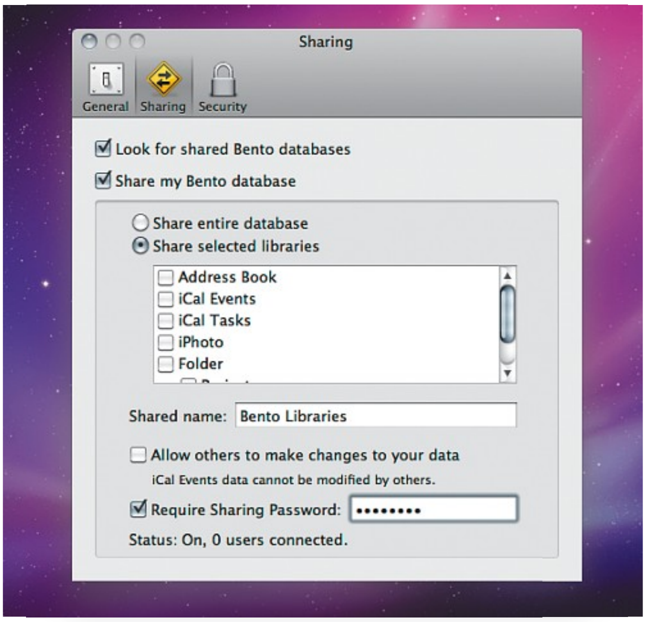
- ⊕ iPhoto integration
- ⊕ Networked sharing
- ⊕ Basic password security
- ⊕ Upgrade pricing introduced
- ⊖ No support for iPhoto Events
- ⊖ Layout tools still inflexible

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"There's plenty here to please home users and to entice small businesses into trying this program."

You can share data with up to five users. It works very much like library and playlist sharing in iTunes.



☑ Look for shared Bento databases
☑ Share my Bento database
○ Share entire database
● Share selected libraries
☐ Address Book
☐ iCal Events
☐ iCal Tasks
☐ iPhoto
☐ Folder
Shared name: Bento Libraries
☐ Allow others to make changes to your data
iCal Events data cannot be modified by others.
☑ Require Sharing Password: ••••••••
Status: On, 0 users connected.

»IMAGE EDITOR

Pixelmator 1.5

$59 (£37) Can this Photoshop wannabe finally match its expensive rival?

»ON THE DISC
You can find all these programs on the disc.

CONTACTS

Developer: Pixelmator Team Ltd
www.pixelmator.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: Mac OS X 10.5.7 or later
Other: Core Image supported graphics card, iLife for some features

PROS & CONS

- + Straightforward to use
- + Strong toolset and effects
- − Cluttered interface
- − Poor performance on big images

VERDICT

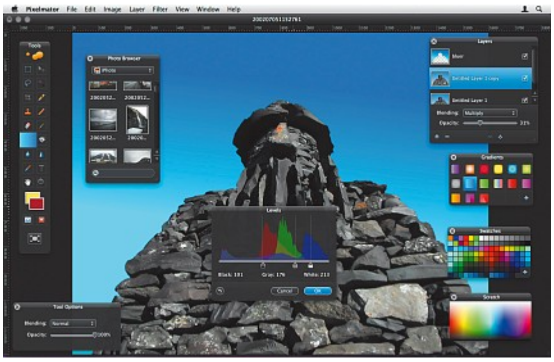
★★★☆☆

"Not the superstar some claim, but Pixelmator has finally become a competent image editor."

Most consumer-oriented image apps concentrate on photography rather than editing. *Pixelmator* is an attempt to turn the clock back, somewhat aping *Photoshop* circa 2002, albeit at a fraction of the cost.

Back in *MacFormat* issue 189, we bucked the trend by calling *Pixelmator 1.0* "a nice idea, badly implemented" and 'awarded' it one-and-a-half stars. Our concerns were huge performance issues, an irritating interface with loads of semi-transparent components and odd toolset omissions. These problems remain to some extent, but *Pixelmator's* come on a long way.

The interface remains awkward in some areas – palettes are sprinkled around and you can't type values into dialog fields – but transparency is less evident, the action tooltips used throughout are a lovely touch, and the intuitive way in which selections are made (with plenty of visual feedback) beats *Photoshop* in its current state, let alone seven years ago.



Pixelmator's interface is reminiscent of Photoshop several years ago.

The toolset is suitable for creating and editing RGB screen graphics, and the web-slicing and export tools should suffice for amateur web designers. However, the lack of layer effects is a pity, and pros will be hampered by *Pixelmator's* iffy brush management and poor performance on large images. In tests, *Pixelmator* slowed noticeably when images were larger than 3,000 pixels per edge, but was snappy for smaller images. *Pixelmator* is finally worth a look.
Craig Grannell

»FILE PROTECTION TOOL

Secret Folder 7.0

$25 (£16) This security app tricks no one

CONTACTS Developer: Apimac (www.apimac.com)

Now and again, an app appears that makes bold claims about protecting your files and securing them from prying eyes. Alas, *Secret Folder* does this in a way that anyone with fairly basic knowledge will be able to circumvent with ease.

Secret Folder's interface is the one thing it gets right. Reminiscent of *Time Machine*, it has a huge switch that toggles the visibility of items dragged to it from *Finder* (and optionally enables a password to be used). Unfortunately, all it does under the hood is use a UNIX system function to rename files, adding a period to the start of their names. What this does is trick the system into treating affected items as system files so that they don't show up in *Finder*.

Anyone with a rudimentary understanding of Mac OS X can get around this (via *Terminal*, an FTP client or the likes of *Path Finder*, for instance). Although the developer notes this limitation on the app's website, the message is rather lost. If *Secret Folder* were free, we might be a little kinder, but £16 is a lot to pay for protection that isn't secure.
Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★½☆☆☆

"Pretty, but this is a pointless app that doesn't really protect anything securely."

»iPHONE/iPOD TOUCH APP EXTENSION

Brushes Viewer 1.1

Free Apple's mobile platform goes back to Mac

CONTACTS Developer: Steve Sprang (http://brushesapp.com/viewer/)

It's common for Mac OS X apps to have associated equivalents on iPhone and iPod touch, extending their use for users of Apple's mobile platform. Unusually, *Brushes Viewer* heads in the opposite direction, adding value to owners of *Brushes for iPhone*.

This piece of freeware enables you to load files in the .BRUSHES format. It turns out that every stroke made in *Brushes* for iPhone is recorded, and so *Brushes Viewer* enables you to watch as your creation comes together, step by step, before your very eyes. The viewer has rotation and playback speed controls but no means of moving to arbitrary points in the timeline. Usefully, the export options are plentiful, enabling you to do more than just admire your art. The playback sequence can be exported to a *QuickTime* movie, and your masterpieces can be saved as a JPEG, TIFF or PNG of up to 1920x2880 pixels in size.

Even if you don't own *Brushes*, this app is mesmerising, because it comes with 15 examples from seven artists whose creations evolve may inspire you to paint.
Craig Grannell

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"An essential extension if you own Brushes, yet still mesmerising if you don't."

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>>SMARTPHONE

Palm Pre

FROM £FREE It's cute, it's innovative, its interface is polished, it's… not an iPhone, though

CONTACTS

Manufacturer Palm
www.palm.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Screen: 320x480, 3.1-inch **Camera:** 3.2MP **Other features:** physical keyboard, GPS, accelerometer, ambient light sensor, proximity sensor **Dimensions:** 59.5x100.5x16.95mm **Weight:** 135g

PROS & CONS

- + Charming, beautiful OS
- + Some brilliant features
- + Proper USB mounting
- − Sluggish
- − Poor keyboard; little autocorrect
- − Worrying iTunes sync policy

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"A charming OS on slightly flawed hardware. Promising, but the platform is no iPhone killer. Yet."

QWERTYUIOP
ASDFGHJKL
ZXCVBNM

Even with practice, the cramped, unresponsive keyboard is a pain to type on.

Rarely has a new product had so much hope, expectation and goodwill from so many, riding on it. And this gadget takes a ballsy new direction, which may well be Palm's last chance to maintain relevance and, crucially, solvency.

The Palm Pre has now arrived in the UK and is joining the O2 network exclusively, just as the iPhone is about to be added to both Orange and Vodafone.

To review the Pre, you have to separate the operating system and the hardware it runs on. The device itself is sweet. It's substantially smaller than the iPhone, and it feels chunky and cute in your hand. The screen is the same resolution as the iPhone's but because it's smaller, it seems sharper. There's a plain ol' 3.5mm minijack at the top for headphones. It comes in one capacity, 8GB, and has a 3.2MP camera with a weak, only-marginally useful flash.

How's the hardware?

The hardware is imperfect, however. There's no on-screen keyboard, instead the keyboard slides out vertically and feels cramped, plus it needs too much pressure to register keypresses. The lower lip is do-you-a-mischief sharp and the mechanism on which the phone slides open has too much wobble for our liking.

Email
12:00
FAVORITES
All inboxes
Inbox
WORK
Inbox
GMAIL
WORK
Inbox
Deleted Items
Drafts
Junk E-mail

You can view email in all your accounts' inboxes in a single unified mailbox.

With typical usage, you'll need to charge it every night (such as with the iPhone). It's not that the battery is bad, but that the very act of using the phone – lighting up the screen, hammering 3G, WiFi and apps – is tough on batteries. One of the Pre's big selling points against the iPhone is the fact that it can run more than one application at a time, letting you flip through, reorder and quit them with simple gestures, a power-hungry feature. However, this only contributes to the background anxiety that you don't want to be away from a plug for long.

> *"It will sync with iTunes, though Apple can block it, and Palm has to issue OS patches to re-enable the syncing. Worrying…"*

The OS, though, is lovely. While it's often sluggish (perhaps the CPU is to blame) it's still utterly charming, and shows the same attention to detail that endears Apple to us. Setup is simple; it supports Exchange, Google, MobileMe (for email only) and even Facebook for contacts. All contacts are poured into one single, cross-linkable soup; we can't decide if this is brilliant or irritating, mind.

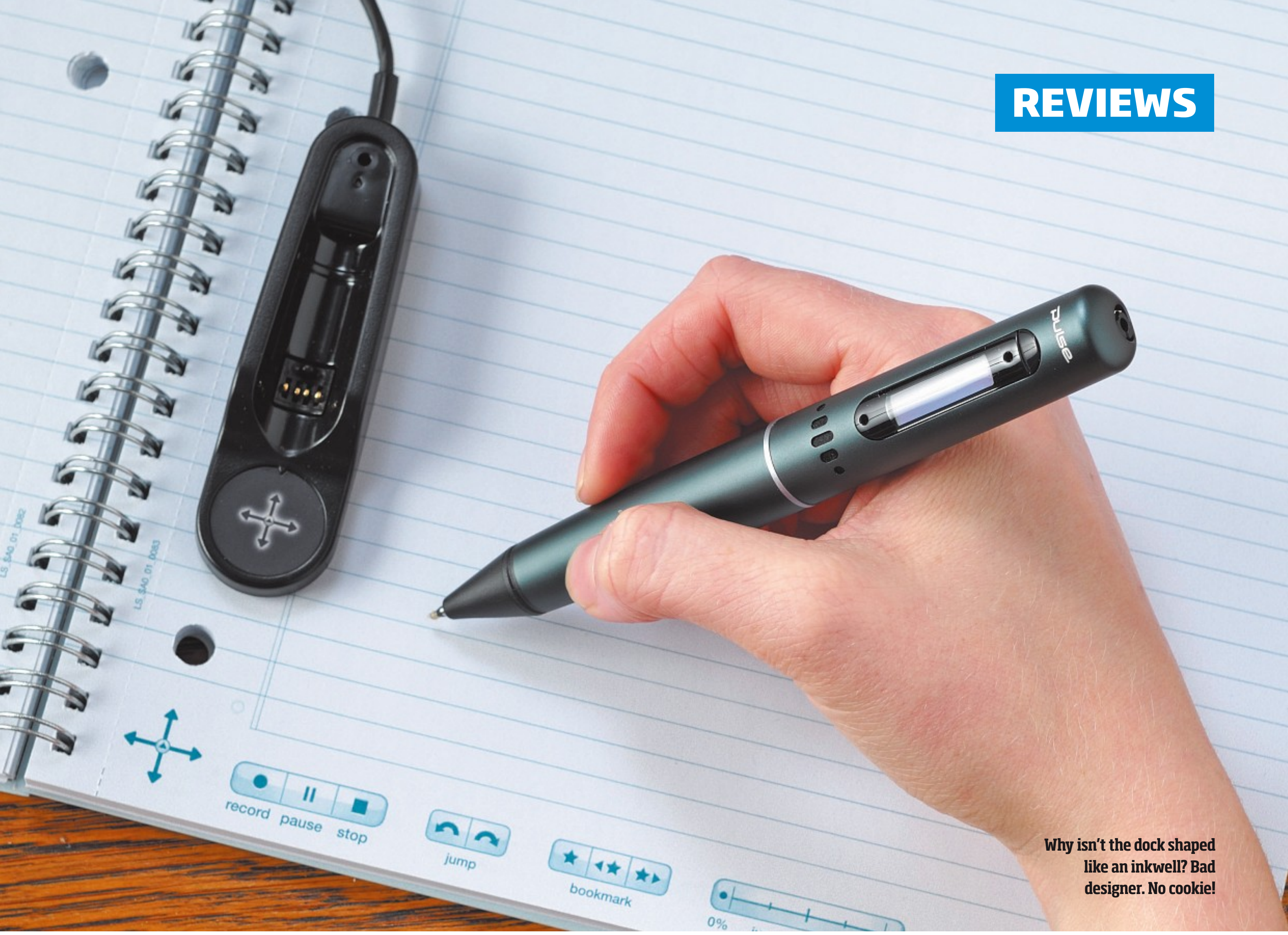
The email client has an optional unified inbox and 'flagged messages' mailbox to help you manage mail from multiple accounts, and we like how the month view in the calendar app shows shaded areas to indicate, at a glance, how much of a day is free.

Multi-tasker

The Pre can act as a USB drive; drop documents on it and, although they will lose their folder structure, you can view (not edit) many file types and attach them to emails. It will even sync with *iTunes*, though Palm has chosen a silly strategy to allow this. Apple can block it and Palm regularly has to issue OS patches to re-enable the syncing. Worrying.

You can add third-party apps through the App Catalog, though the choice is currently severely limited. Tariffs through O2 are reasonable – identical to the 8GB iPhone 3G, at least – but while we've never had any problems with the network, be aware that some iPhone users regularly complain about O2.

The Pre is a hugely promising phone for the new webOS platform, and we hope it can be successful enough for Palm, so that it can continue to be developed for years. At the moment, the iPhone is better, but if the Pre and the platform had as much time in the market as the iPhone has, we might not be saying that. The iPhone competition is looming just around the corner…
Christopher Phin



Why isn't the dock shaped like an inkwell? Bad designer. No cookie!

>>SMARTPEN

Livescribe Pulse Smartpen 2GB

£138 Phenomenally cool technology, but is it too gimmicky to justify the cost?

At first glance, the Pulse looks like one of those horrible old scanning-pen affairs. It's not. It's much more interesting. This pen packs some proper computing power, which works hand in hand with special paper (printed with microdots) to do more than just record your scrawl. For starters, it records audio as well. Switch it on, start making notes, and when you need to refresh your memory, tap the section of your notes you wish to review. The pen plays the audio recording from that point onwards. Audio can be exported as an AAC, and copies of your notes printed from a desktop app.

Not impressive enough? Here's the attention-grabber. Switch it into Piano mode and draw a keyboard, then tap on the keys to play notes. You can start the pen playing a rhythm, or switch instruments entirely. It's completely pointless, but a great example of what the pen can do, given the right software. Extra apps are due to be sold from an iTunes-style store, with possibilities ranging from translation tools to OCR. It's a shame OCR isn't part of the bundled software along with its note-filing, though, as that would be exceptionally useful.

There are only two real problems. The first is the pen. It's holding a lot of technology, which makes it thick and therefore uncomfortable to write with. The second is the cost. As well as being expensive in its own right, you need special paper. You can print off as much of the stuff as you want for free, of which we approve, but if you want it in notebooks, you've got to spend £13 to £20 per pad.

> *"Apps are due to be sold from an iTunes-style store, ranging from translation tools to OCR..."*

The benefits of the note-taking section alone make the Pulse worth considering, and it's certainly one of the more fun tools we've had in the office of late, but it's hardly something to pick up on a whim. That said, if you're a diligent student with a bit of disposable income that would otherwise have been wasted on trivial things like food and bathing supplies, it could well be one of the best purchases you make this year.

Richard Cobbett

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Livescribe
www.livescribe.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Capacity: 1GB or 2GB versions available **Accessories:** notepad, software, USB charger and dock

PROS & CONS

- + Very useful for note-taking
- + Highly expandable
- − Pen is bulky
- − Pricey

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"If you can afford to drop the cash, it's the year's most fun computing toy."

PORTABLE OPTICAL DISC BURNER

LaCie Portable DVD±RW

£58 The convenient way to add a second optical drive and burner to your Mac set-up.

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: LaCie
www.lacie.com/uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Write Speeds: CD 24x, DVD 8x, DVD DL 6x **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 **Dimensions:** 15.8x13.7x2.5cm **Weight:** 305g

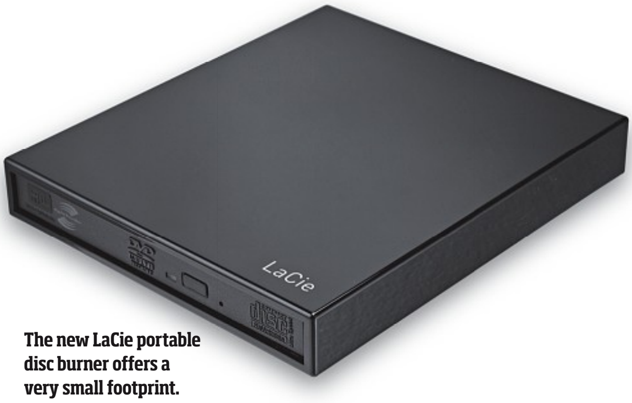
PROS & CONS

- + Small and light
- + Offers LightScribe
- + Good value for money
- − Could be faster

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A thrifty second drive offering an acceptable but unremarkable speed."



The new LaCie portable disc burner offers a very small footprint.

Mac Pro owners enjoy two bays for internal optical drives, but as the rest of us don't have this luxury, a portable external disc burner is the natural choice for a second. LaCie's Portable DVD±RW is powered by your Mac's USB port, or two using the bundled USB power lead if it needs more than one supply – though it managed fine with one port on both our aluminium iMac and MacBook Air. It can burn CDs, DVDs, Dual Layer DVDs, rewritable media and DVD-RAM, and offers LightScribe technology for burning labels directly onto compatible media.

The LaCie Portable DVD±RW is extremely light in the hand, and is pretty small too. It's just the thing for your laptop bag. The shiny black finish that quickly gathers fingerprints is less welcome, though. In operation, the LaCie put in a solid if unspectacular performance, with the trade-off between portability and speed taking its toll. Using the bundled *Toast 9 Basic* application, it copied and verified a 7.6GB Dual Layer DVD in one hour, nine minutes and 22 seconds, reaching an average write speed of 3x. It took 42 minutes, 22 seconds, averaging 4x speeds, to burn the same data from a disc image: respectable for a portable burner.

The Mac edition of the LaCie Portable DVD±RW is £10-£15 more expensive than the PC version and sports a feature-restricted version of *Toast 9*. If that doesn't grab you, LaCie says you can buy the PC edition and save a few quid.

Ian Osborne

» WIRELESS MULTI-FUNCTION DEVICE

Canon PIXMA MP640

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£133 Frankly, we're at a loss as to how Canon stuffed so much stuff into a single, inexpensive box

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Canon
www.canon.co.uk

SPECIFICATIONS

Resolution: 9600x2400dpi **Inks:** 5 **Memory card formats**: All major **PictBridge support:** Yes **Optical resolution:** 4800x9600dpi **Dimensions**: 450x368x176mm

PROS & CONS

- + Phenomenal feature package
- + Stellar print quality
- + Terrific value
- − Setup could baffle newbies

VERDICT

★★★★★

"Superb print quality and groaning with features; an excellent value MFD."

The design is smart rather than beautiful, but the price is attractive.

There's usually a compromise in a multi-function device (MFD). Either a particular feature you want isn't in a given model, the prints are lacklustre, or the price is too high. However, Canon seems to have produced an MFD that packs everything into one easy-to-use box, and at a price that we love.

On paper, the mix of features is formidable. It's a high-resolution scanner, printer and copier. It has both WiFi and Ethernet for network printing; finally, companies are realising that 'network printing' doesn't just have to be for offices – hurrah! It has five single ink tanks to reduce waste (including a separate black pigment for wonderfully dark text to complement the dye-based CMYK inks, which produce great photos). The interface is relatively simple to use. And not only does it print coated CDs and DVDs, but it can also print on both sides of the paper ('duplex') automatically. Plus, it has Canon's fantastic dual paper source feature, enabling you to load, say, plain A4 into the under-carriage, and only have to open the 'normal' paper feed when you're using specialist media.

Print quality is stellar, and, while the scans are a smidge soft and muddy to a critical eye, they are nevertheless excellent.

Sadly, the setup process can be complex. The multi-lingual guide is a mess and, under Snow Leopard, some things don't work at all by default. It's best to plug it in and let the OS grab the correct drivers, but that's not explained. Once set up, though, it's a dream.

Christopher Phin

SAMSUNG
GPS
Schneider-KREUZNACH
VARIOPLAN 6.3-31.5mm 1:3.6-4.8
ST1000
12.2 MEGA PIXELS
5X OPTICAL ZOOM

The ST1000 is a stellar gadget camera, available in a range of colours.

>>COMPACT DIGITAL CAMERA

Samsung ST1000

£295 WiFi, GPS, Bluetooth, touchscreen, HD movies; the ST100 does it all with aplomb

Well, it's not supposed to work like this. High-end, feature-packed cameras are usually, frankly, a mess: flaky, oddball features, a Frankenstein interface of patchwork hideousness, an image quality that, ultimately, feels like an afterthought…

But the Samsung ST1000 is different. It feels beautifully built – even if the decision to place the lens where it is means you're in danger of taking too many photos of your left index finger – and the 3.5-inch touchscreen on the back is just stunning. It has super-high pixel density, great colour and the interface is actually usable without having to turn to the manual.

The pictures are good too – 12.2 megapixels is a little much to ask of a compact camera's sensor, so there's some smearing and noise at 100% (especially noticeable in low light), but otherwise they're fine. Granted, there's no RAW option, and an entry-level DLSR is going to trounce it on image quality alone – for just £150 or so more – but the JPEGs sufficiently hold their own. The 720p movies, recorded in an *iMovie*-friendly H.264 format, are good, though detail is smudged and a tad over-sharpened.

Best of all though, the advanced technology stuffed into this camera actually works. Given a few minutes to get a lock, the GPS circuitry can embed the location each shot was taken into the JPEG's metadata. The accuracy varies according to different conditions, but it's never usually more than a few metres out. The Places feature of *iPhoto* can then use this data to pin photos to a map, or to build Smart Albums based on where photos were shot. Images uploaded to Flickr can (optionally) maintain this data, though an apparent bug in how Google truncates coordinates means that Picasa and Google Maps get the location wrong.

> *"The ST1000 feels beautifully built, and the 3.5-inch touchscreen on the back is just stunning"*

You can upload the images to Picasa and Facebook directly from the camera over WiFi but, while the ST1000 supports WEP/WPA, it won't work with paid-for hotspots that require a login.

Christopher Phin

CONTACTS

Manufacturer: Samsung
www.samsung.com

SPECIFICATIONS

Write Speeds: CD 24x, DVD 8x, DVD DL 6x **OS:** Mac OS X 10.4 **Dimensions:** 15.8x13.7x2.5 cm **Weight:** 305g

PROS & CONS

- + Phenomenal tech
- + Handy contextual help
- + Good pics and movies
- – No wireless download

VERDICT

★★★★½

"We're impressed. Tons of useful tech - that works - and decent image quality."

>> NOTEBOOK STAND

Macally EcoFan Pro

£28 www.macally-europe.com

01 There are plenty of notebook stands around, but few look as stylish as this one. Compatible with any laptop under 17 inches, the Macally EcoFan Pro is made from attractive, eco-friendly bamboo. Its twin cooling fans are powered from your MacBook's USB port, and it offers three height settings for maximum comfort.

In our tests, the fans did very little to keep the CPU cool, but that's nothing unusual for a notebook stand. Where this one scores highly is in aesthetics. It's robust, functional, ergonomic and looks fantastic.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★½☆

"This notebook stand oozes style, but its fans do little."

>> WIRELESS MOUSE

Macally BTmouse

£27 www.macally-europe.com

02 Macally's Bluetooth BTmouse boasts a shiny black-and-silver design that looks great next to an iMac. It has a meaty, responsive scroll wheel and is comfortable in the hand. BTmouse's three buttons are supposed to be programmed via *System Preferences* after downloading an input manager. Trouble is, the driver in question doesn't currently recognise the mouse. We couldn't get it to work in Leopard or Snow Leopard.

Macally has released some great mice in the past, but we can't recommend this one until it's compatible with OS X.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"Impressive, but the drivers urgently need updating."

>> TRAVEL SPEAKERS

IXOS XMS222 Oyster 2.0

£25 www.ixos.co.uk

03 These portable notebook speakers can be powered from four AA batteries (hence the pod in the foreground) or through your computer's USB port. When not in use they fit neatly together for protection during transport. A 3.5mm auxiliary input means they're compatible with any device with a regular headphone jack.

Yet for all their convenience and style, the sound isn't all that good. They're better than the MacBook's built-in speakers, but their flat acoustics and weak bass response struggle to match the quality of the MacBook Pro.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★☆☆☆

"Versatile and compact, but the sound suffers as a result."

>> EARBUDS

Klipsch Image S4

£60 www.klipsch.co.uk

04 The Klipsch Image S4s should keep even the most fussy audiophile happy. They come with three sets of tips, and when you've found the most comfortable set for your ears, they give excellent sound isolation. The degree of detail is impressive, offering a warm, rounded sound. They're a little heavy on the bass, but whether this is a good thing or a bad thing is very much a matter of taste.

The S4s also give a well-constructed sound. It's almost like being in the room with the band, making these among the best earbuds in their price range.

Ian Osborne

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"A superb set of earbuds that are great value, even at £60."

SOLD OUT!

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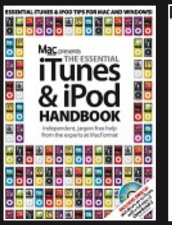

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iPhone

» MEET YOUR iPHONE EXPERT

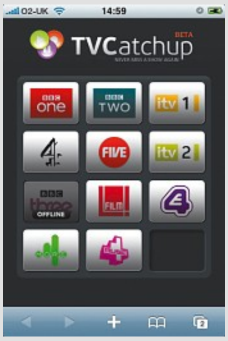
Deputy Editor Christopher Phin knows more about the iPhone than any one man has the right to.

● NEW RELEASES ● SMALL APPLICATIONS ● USEFUL UTILITIES ● TRUSTED REVIEWS

NEWS IN BRIEF

O2 loses iPhone exclusivity

Having been exclusively available on O2 since its launch in the UK, the iPhone will soon be available on Orange and Vodafone; the news comes as O2 adds the Palm Pre (see review, p92) to its network alone. It may not mean cheaper call packages in the short term, but increased competition is rarely bad for the consumer in markets such as this.



Another live TV option

TVCatchup has launched an iPhone version of its site that allows iPhone or iPod touch users to watch live TV over WiFi and 3G. It remains to be seen what the legal implications will be, and we're not sure if the business model will prove sustainable, but it feels like a great service at the moment.

» EYETV CONTROLLER

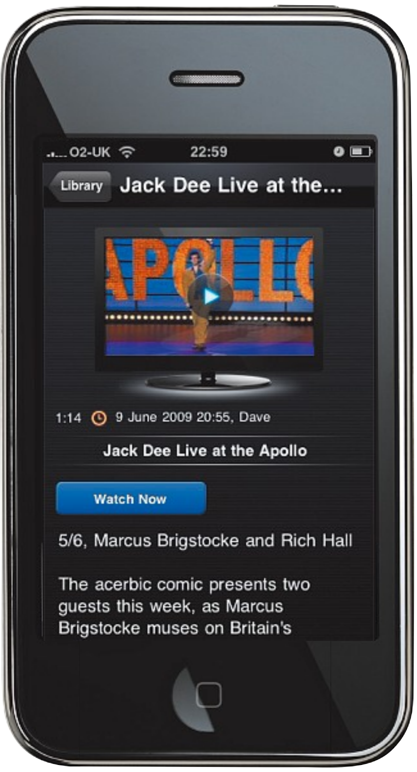
EyeTV

£2.99 Who needs a Slingbox? Watch and schedule your EyeTV remotely

People pay good money for a Slingbox, a piece of dedicated hardware that sits at home and lets you stream TV over the internet to a computer or smartphone. Now, you can use your Mac to do the same thing. Add any TV tuner to your Mac that uses Elgato's fantastic *EyeTV* application, then add this app on your iPhone or iPod touch. You can watch live TV – with the app picking up the programme names from the EPG data held in *EyeTV* on your Mac – and play, pause and rewind it. You can do it on the same local network or even over the web. A Back-to-My-Mac-like service lets you easily find your home computer over the internet, though only a few routers can make the connection fully automatically. But, with a little port forwarding with our test Netgear router, we were all set.

> *"Watch recordings you've made through EyeTV on the Mac, or mark future programmes for recording remotely..."*

Quality over the web is dependent on your home broadband's upload speed, or whether you're on 3G, though if you own a Turbo.264 HD – Elgato's video encoding dongle – it can switch bitrates on the fly to give you the best quality as your bandwidth changes. (Live TV streaming requires a Core 2 Duo, but we had some success with a 1.5GHz Core Solo with a Turbo.264 HD attached.)



9 June 2009 20:55, Dave

Jack Dee Live at the Apollo

5/6, Marcus Brigstocke and Rich Hall

The acerbic comic presents two guests this week, as Marcus Brigstocke muses on Britain's

You can watch recordings you've made through *EyeTV* on the Mac, and go through the schedules to mark future programmes for recording remotely. Sadly, there's no way to search.

The app works well, though your experience of watching live TV and recordings remotely could be spoiled if your upload speeds aren't generous. For scheduling and watching recordings, it's great, but we used *TVCatchup* (see left) for live TV wherever we were. ●

CONTACTS

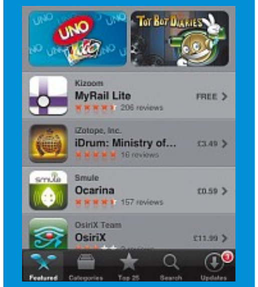
Developer: Elgato Systems
www.elgato.com

VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Little wrong with the app, though bandwidth can make the experience quite frustrating."

» DOWNLOAD THESE APPS



You can download these apps from the iTunes Store on your Mac or from the App Store on your iPhone or iPod touch.

>> TAB READER

TabToolkit

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£5.99 A vital tool for the aspiring guitarist

The internet is awash with free tab files showing you how to play your favourite songs on a guitar, and *TabToolkit* does a good job of bringing them to life on your iPhone.

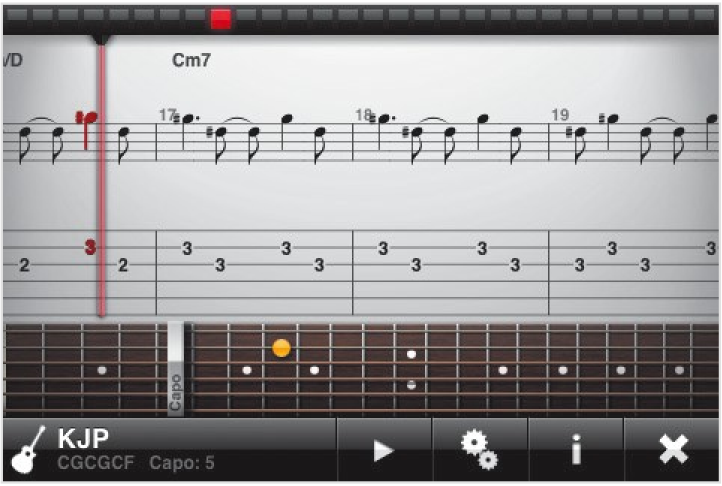
You transfer tab files to your iPhone via WiFi. *TabToolkit* does a decent job of displaying plain text tab files, but the fun starts with Guitar Pro and Power Tab files, which it can play. They contain both tab and standard musical notations and a guitar fretboard or keyboard shows you which frets to finger as the song plays. At any moment you can pause to move forward and backward, should you need extra help with the difficult bits, or select a different instrument.

The concept works beautifully on iPhone – just plonk yourself down on the sofa with your guitar and prop the iPhone on a cushion. Being able to loop a section of tab would be welcome, but we're impressed with what we've got already. ●

VERDICT

★★★★★

"If you're a guitar player and iPhone owner then TabToolkit is a vital purchase."



>> REMOTE CONTROL

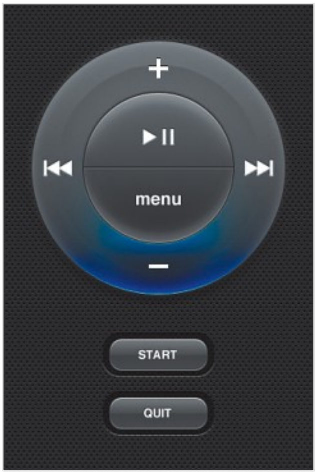
TouchPad

£2.39 Control your Mac remotely and stylishly

For a long time we've been recommending *Air Mouse Pro* as a little app that can turn your iPhone or iPod touch into a remote keyboard and mouse for your Mac – especially useful if you use one as a media centre, for instance – but now we're happy to switch our loyalty over to *TouchPad* from Edovia.

It's a little more expensive, and doesn't do the optional motion-based control of *Air Mouse Pro*, but it has more than enough to recommend it. It's more polished, for one thing, with beautiful UI design and support for, say the escape key that the Air Mouse Pro lacks. It also has a view that replicates the physical Apple remote; great for *Front Row* or *Plex*.

Plus, it's a cleaner system; it doesn't require a server daemon, instead just using the Mac's built-in VNC client to do the remote mousing and typing. ●



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"It's elegant and polished – with support for multi-touch gestures. Plus, it's cheap; a winner!"

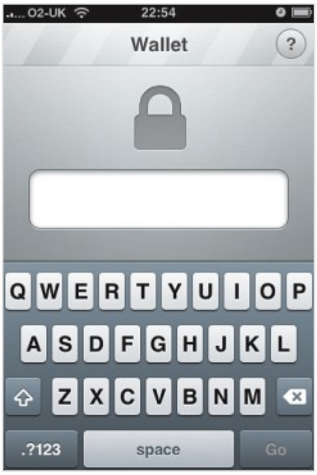
>> SECURE DATABASE

Wallet

£2.39 Keep your personal data safe and in sync

At its most basic, *Wallet* is just a straightforward database for information – so why not just use *Bento*, say, and create your own? Well, you could, but we like *Wallet* for several reasons. It's stable and well-designed, and while it's set up especially for keeping track of web logins (though it can't enter them for you on mobile *Safari*, *1Password* style) and serial numbers – the main reason we bought it – you can also create your own database types. The whole thing is locked down with 256-bit AES encryption, too, so it should be secure.

Best of all though is that it syncs with the $20 Mac application too – either seamlessly over the air via MobileMe, or locally over WiFi – so you can keep your main database of information in your pocket wherever you go – safely and securely ●



VERDICT

★★★★☆

"Wallet has made itself invaluable to us over the years; the app is a great add-on."

Games

» MEET YOUR GAMES GURU
Andy Dyer is a legend, having worked on many games mags. He now gets his gaming fix on his iMac and iPod touch.

● ACTION & ARCADE ● PUZZLE & STRATEGY ● ONLINE ADVENTURE ● iPHONE GAMES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eastern promise

The recent Tokyo Game Show threw up a few gems, sadly none of them Mac-based. However, one PC game we would like to see make it onto Mac is *Dead Rising 2*, a survival-horror affair that uniquely features a multi-player mode based on a fictional TV game show that involves slaughtering zombies for prizes. A winning formula, surely.

www.capcom.com

Management takeover

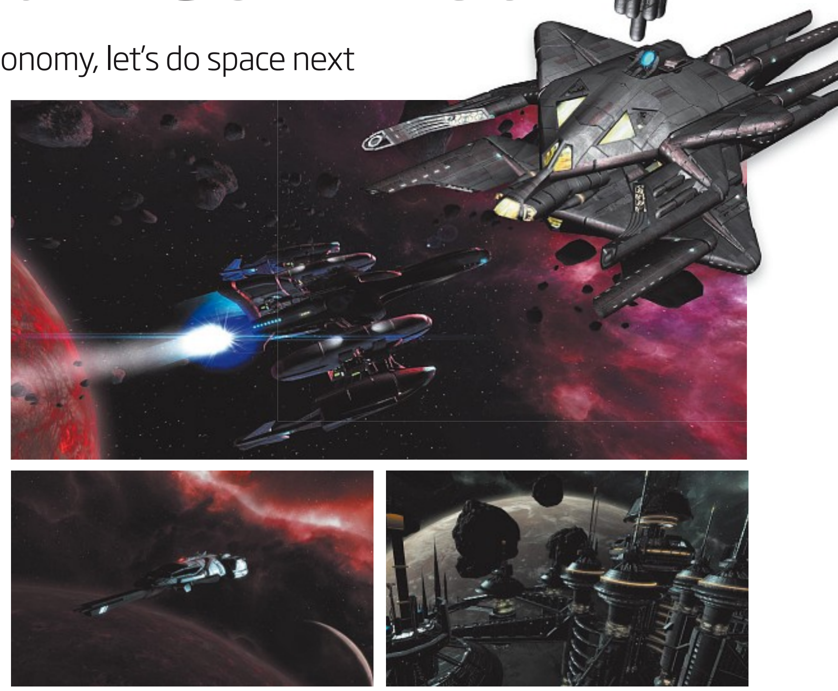
Championship Manager 2010 is nearing release, and it promises to be a Premiership contender in the world of football management sims thanks to a few important new features, one of which is CM Season Live, where players download monthly updates from the real-world footy season so they can take the reins of their team to change their fortunes.

www.vpltd.com

» SPACE TRADING AND COMBAT

X3: Terran Conflict

We've messed up Earth's economy, let's do space next



Become a high-flying investor, factory builder or galaxy-renowned fighter in the X3 universe.

Fans of the *X* series of space trading and combat games will very much welcome the news that *X3: Terran Conflict* is in Earth's orbit as we speak, preparing for imminent touchdown.

The series has always had its fair share of critics – voice acting, controls and various technical issues have all been cited as weaknesses – but this culmination of the story certainly seems to address many of these anxieties. It might just be that this chapter will not only please the legions of existing fans, but also convert a few doubters.

X3: Terran Conflict is a sort of standalone expansion of *X3: Reunion* before it, in that it's based on the same universe and features the same engine. Interestingly, a group of modders, artists and musicians who created a *Reunion* mod called *The X-Tended Mod* so impressed Egosoft that elements of their mod were used in this latest game – the group was even called in to work on the game.

> *"It might be that this chapter will not only please existing fans but also convert a few doubters"*

The story this time around is, well, rather too complex to go into here, but in simple terms, it's a convoluted plot involving Argon, Terran, Xenon and pirate factions scuttling around the galaxy and getting into rucks. Oh, and there's the small matter of a mysterious Terran colony called Aldrin that was long thought to be lost, but becomes the focus of a conflict between Terran and Xenon forces.

Space trader

Aside from the missions, *X3: TC* is essentially an open-ended space trading game. As you travel around different sectors of the galaxy using jump gates, you can trade goods in order to accrue wealth. By building factories, trading stations, weapons platforms and HQs, you can boost local economies and use installations to set up supply routes.

Of course, there are other traders (and aliens) out to prevent your passage. Luckily, you can buy new ships, which you can either pilot yourself or command to carry out trading or battling duties. In this way, it's possible to build whole fleets of military spacecraft, thus enabling you to take part in ever larger conflicts.

X3:TC is the biggest game in the series, and boasts more missions and more play options than ever before. We'll bring you more as soon as the game hits the shelves. ●

>>FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

BioShock

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

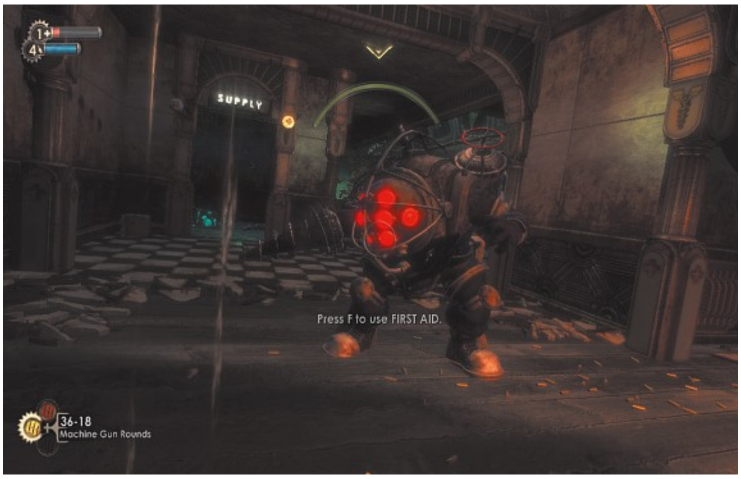
£TBA A first-person shooter with a moral message... and mutants

A major part of *BioShock's* appeal lies in its fascinating storyline and the beautifully designed visuals that illustrate it. The game takes place in 1960 and opens with a plane crash, the sole survivor of which finds himself in the underwater city of Rapture. This is where the game departs from our own history and veers off on an altogether more bizarre version of mid-20th century goings-on.

Rapture, we discover, is a city created by a visionary Big Brother-like figure whose great dream was to build a place where scientists, entepreneurs and the like could pursue their work unfettered by bureaucracy and over-legislative government. Anyone who shared the dream sought out Rapture.

Getting objective

Here the game gets interesting, because the premise is not dissimilar to the ideas of Objectivism espoused by novelist and philosopher Ayn Rand. Only here, rather than leading to a utopian society of great opportunity for all, Rapture has become a twisted, morally bereft place, ruled by fear and populated by mutants.



Adversaries are never far away in the once-utopian, now dystopian underwater city of Rapture.

> *"The avant-garde architecture, dance hall soundtrack, period advertising and general air of decay lend the city a disturbing air"*

It's the intellectual underpinning of the concept that makes *BioShock* such a departure from run-of-the-mill shooters. Should you choose to explore the themes in the game further, it makes the experience even richer as you begin to understand the influences that shaped the developers' thinking. The depth of the experience is helped greatly by the visuals, which are at times stunning. Quite apart from the jarring and violent encounters with Rapture's mutant (and mechanised) population, the avant-garde architecture, dancehall soundtrack, period advertising and general air of decay lend the city a disturbing air.

As mentioned, Rapture is populated by mutants, but we don't want to spoil the mystery for you except to say that the freedom given to the city's scientific community has led to a series of slightly undesirable biological 'enhancements'. However, the player can take advantage of this by injecting himself with Plasmids, which give him various powers such as lightning bolts, the ability to cast fireballs and use telekinetic powers to move objects. He can also use more conventional weapons such as shotguns, pistols and the like.

Big brother watches

In addition, there are security cameras and weapon bots scattered throughout the place. If you're spotted by a camera, you'll be attacked by a flying security bot, so stealth is an important part of the game in these instances. If you're smart, when attacked by a bot you can either destroy it or disable it. Then, by hacking into it you can use the bot to attack your enemies.

Hacking is useful for unlocking safes and making the most of vending machines too. Whenever you want to hack something, you have to complete a puzzle that plays in exactly the same way as a level of *Pipe Mania*, requiring you to assemble sections of pipe in order to guide a flow of liquid to the desired place.

If there's any criticism, it's that *BioShock* shows its hand a little too soon. The player is introduced to Rapture's abominations right at the start of the game, dissipating the early tension, but it's forgivable.

Otherwise, it's a superb creation. The atmosphere is spot on, there's variety in the gameplay, and there are political and moral issues in the story. Rapture is not a place you'd want to live, but it's definitely worth a visit. ●

CONTACTS

Developer: 2k Games
www.2kgames.com
Publisher: Feral Interactive
www.feralinteractive.com

REQUIREMENTS

OS: OS X 10.5.8 **Processor:** 1.8GHz **Ram:** 1.5GB RAM **Other:** 128MB VRAM, 8GB free hard disk space, DVD drive

PROS & CONS

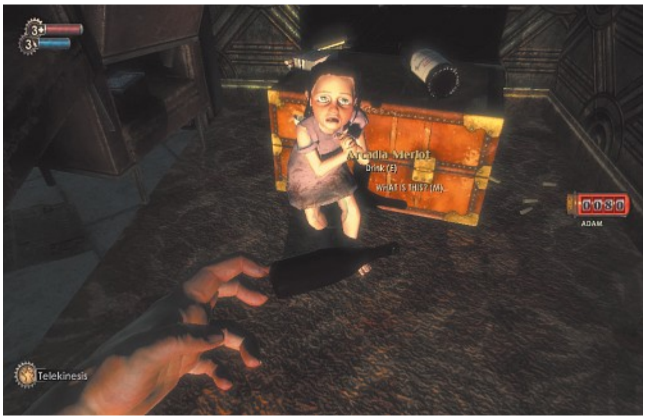
- ⊕ A great story
- ⊕ Amazing visuals
- ⊕ Interesting themes
- ⊕ Spooky sounds
- ⊕ A blend of gameplay styles
- ⊖ A bit quick to reveal its secrets

VERDICT

★★★★★

"BioShock is a wonderfully rich alternative to the sometimes myopic world of first-person shooters."

Chugging a bottle of Arcadia Merlot will happily boost your energy levels.



>>STRATEGY

Galcon

Mac FORMAT On the disc

£6.03 (digital download) A galactic mash-up played at full-tilt. Pass the paracetamol…

CONTACTS

Developer: Imitation Pickles
www.imitationpickles.org
Publisher: Brothersoft
www.brothersoft.com

REQUIREMENTS

Processor: Intel or PowerPC
Ram: 20.3MB RAM

PROS & CONS

- ⊕ Old school looks
- ⊕ Super-fast gameplay
- ⊕ Simple premise
- ⊕ Multiple play modes
- ⊕ Multi-player action
- ⊖ Too fast for serious strategists

VERDICT

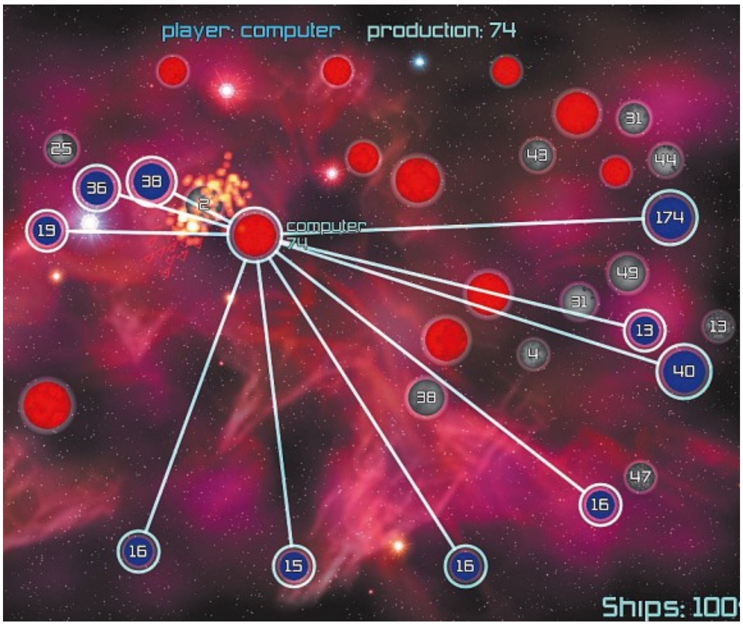
★★★★☆

"A superb way to frazzle your brain for five minutes at a time."

Good grief! This is what would happen if classic strategy game *Risk* drank 12 cans of Relentless in one sitting.

Refreshingly, the game's developer Phil Hassey has decided not to bore us with anything as superfluous as a plot or backstory. All you need to know is that in each of the game's single screen levels there are a load of planets and it's up to you to take them by force, rather than allowing your opponent to do so.

In keeping with the game's stripped-down nature, the visuals are also decidedly old school with a suitably spacey backdrop overlaid with sprite-like planets and extremely cool, glowing vector-style spaceships.



Define your waypoints and stake out your space in an ever-expanding game of conquest.

Ship shape

The basic gameplay goes something like this. You have a number of ships on your home planet, as does your opponent. You can set the percentage of ships you send out at any time. By dragging the pointer from your planet to a neutral planet, that percentage of ships flies off to populate the selected target. Once a load of ships have left a planet, the home planet starts to regenerate more ships. As you 'own' more and more planets, so you can select several at once and send ships out en masse to any number of other targets. Of course, while you're doing this, so is your opponent, so you have to make sure you not only acquire neutral planets, but you send enough ships to enemy-owned orbs to capture them, while leaving enough ships on your own planets to protect them. It becomes a tricky balancing act that's made all the more difficult by the speed at which the game is played.

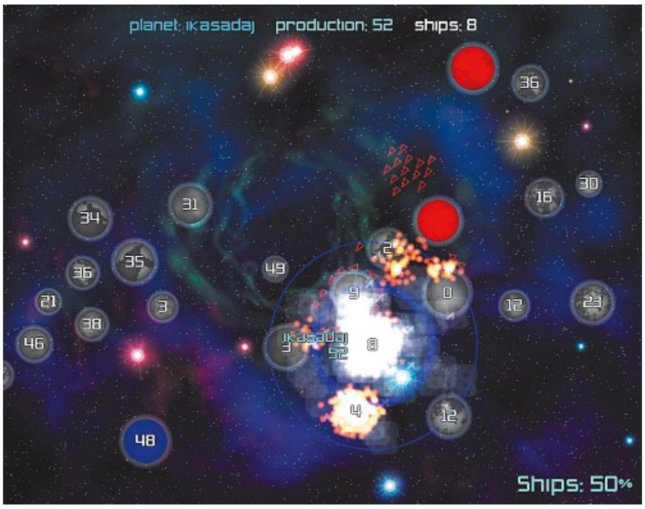
> *"As you own more and more planets, so you can select several at once and send ships out en masse to any number of other targets"*

This might all become rather repetitive but for two facts. First, there's the variety of opponents you'll encounter. Apart from being able to venture effortlessly online to play against other *Galcon* fans around the globe, there are also several computer-controlled players, or bots, who have their own unique style of play, whether that be attacking, defence, kamikaze, siege and so on. So already, what at first seems like a very disposable little game increases in complexity, and you can find yourself quickly getting sucked in.

In addition, there are loads of game modes to choose from. As well as the classic *Galcon*, there are 14 other ways to play – too many to detail here, but whose highlights include Orbits (In which planets orbit other bodies – very confusing), Nuke (set off a nuke on one of your threatened planets as a last resort), Hyperdrive (enemy ships travel a lot faster than your own) and Teams (four players all battling for supremacy). These four alone should have you messing about in space for a good while.

Make your own

The included, relatively easy-to-use map editor is the icing on the cake, and what you end up with is a wonderfully straightforward game that doesn't take up more than five minutes of your time, but has enough replay value to keep you entertained for months to come. Not bad for the price of a couple of beers! ●



Guide your ships to claim more planets, and war with opponents is a likely result.

>> BUY ONLINE
You can download these iPhone and iPod touch games from the App Store.

>> FIRST-PERSON SHOOTER

Modern Combat: Sandstorm

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

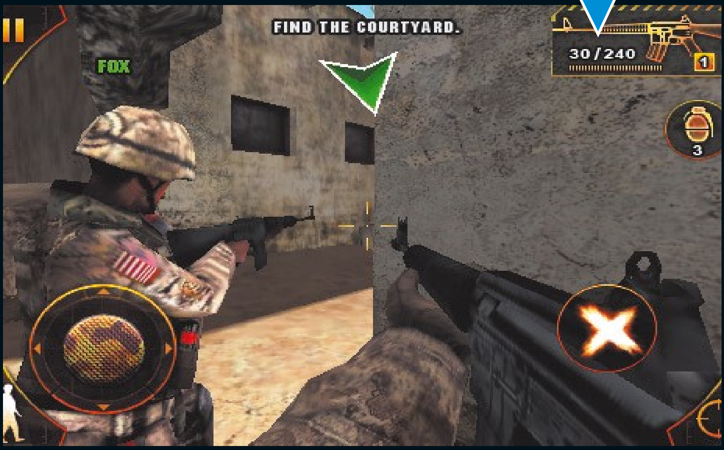
£3.99 Modern Combat kicks sand in the enemies' faces, then laughs

The opening cut-scenes of *Modern Combat* alone are of a quality befitting a big-budget title. But what really makes the game is the sophistication of the level design and the implementation of the controls. A directional stick on the left leaves your right thumb to look around, shoot and select stuff, and it works well.

The banter between squad members is thoroughly unconvincing, but that's probably down to budgetary constraints so we'll let it go. *Sandstorm* looks good, assails your ears with industrial-strength sound effects and, in our opinion at least, earns itself the accolade of being the most playable iPhone FPS to date. ●

CONTACTS
Developer: Gameloft
Available from the App Store

VERDICT
★★★★★
"Looks, sounds and plays great. This is a first-person shooter of the highest order."



Forget Doom Resurrection - this is the first-person shooter you want for the iPhone.

ARCADE

Squareball

Mac FORMAT Choice ★★★★★

£1.19 Mixing primary colours with frustration

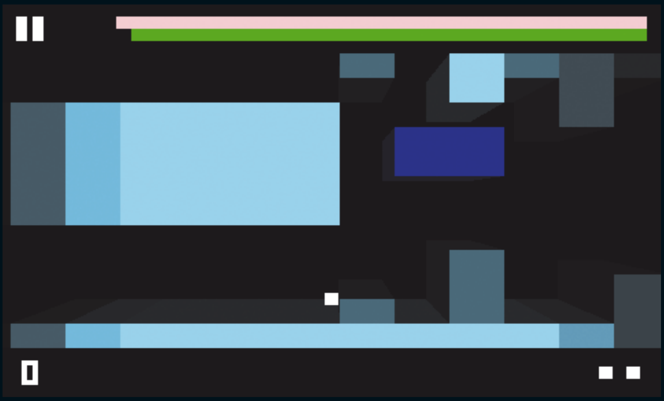
Sometimes the crudest games turn out to be the most compelling and so it proves with *Squareball*, a game inspired by *Pong*, *Breakout* and your generic basic platformer.

All you have to do is guide a ball around a maze, collecting good stuff and avoiding bad stuff. You'll spend as much time swearing at it as smiling upon it, but it's stupendously addictive.

Squareball sits halfway between genius and madness. It's the antithesis of Marmite: you'll love it *and* hate it in equal measure. ●

CONTACTS
Developer: Drömsynt
Available from the App Store

VERDICT
★★★★★
"A throwback from the late 80s. Vile and brilliant all at once."



It may look shocking in terms of visuals, but you just can't help but play Squareball.

SHOOT-'EM-UP

Underground

£2.39 Banksy would fall in love with it

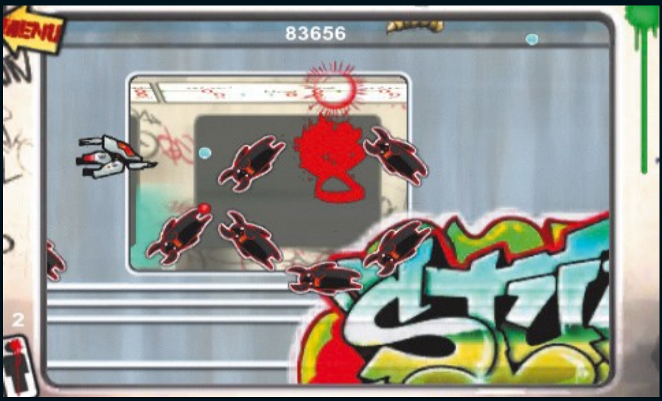
Weird is the only way to describe *Underground*. Well, that and oddly brilliant. At its heart it's just a fairly straightforward 2D shoot-'em-up, but it has an urban theme underpinning it.

You're a graffiti artist, travelling the underground and trying to unravel a mystery as you ride from station to station. The rail network is fully rendered in 3D, and shoot-'em-up elements intersperse cut-scenes.

It's a peculiar marriage of styles, but it's fun and fascinating, and looks great thanks to renowned graffiti artist Mr Frames. ●

CONTACTS
Developer: Kinelco
Available from the App Store

VERDICT
★★★★☆
"A bizarre fusion of bewildering urban cut-scenes and classic 2D shoot-'em-ups."



A surreal side-scrolling shooter awaits the player between Underground's cut-scenes.

LaCie
WD
BUFFALO
FREECOM
iomega

We put some of the smartest portable hard drives on the market to the test.

Photography by Joe Branston

PORTABLE HARD DISK DRIVES

Hard Drivin’

Ian Osborne gets motorised with some of the best portable hard drives on the market

The days when you could carry around all the data you needed on floppies are long gone. The maximum capacity of a regular floppy disk is 1.44MB, and that’s likely to be too little for even a single photo or music track. Its successor, the Zip drive, has also had its day. Even the most capacious Zip disk only holds 750MB, enough for a single movie.

> *“While USB flash drives are getting bigger and cheaper, for high-needs mobile storage, you still can’t beat a portable hard drive”*

And while USB flash drives are getting bigger and cheaper, for high-needs mobile storage, you still can’t beat a portable hard drive.

A portable hard drive is based around a 2.5-inch HDD to save on size, and requires no additional power supply, drawing its power from the USB port it connects to for data transfer. In case this is insufficient, many drives include a cable enabling extra power to be drawn from a second USB port. If you need to power an external drive from the mains, it isn’t a portable drive.

Although bigger – and therefore less convenient – than a solid-state USB flash drive, the portable hard drive offers several key advantages. On a pound-per-GB ratio, portable HDDs are by far the cheapest way to carry around large amounts of data, and they’re available in sizes of up to 1TB, which should be enough for even the most demanding user.

In the following group test, we compared six 500GB portable drives from leading manufacturers, rating them for speed, portability, features, bundled extras and, of course, value for money.

DID YOU KNOW?

A hard drive stores digital data by encoding it on magnetic platters. These platters spin extremely quickly, with the read/write heads passing just tens of nanometers above the platters. A stray speck of dust would prove catastrophic, so hard drives are specially manufactured in controlled environments.

On test this issue

Buffalo MiniStation Lite
£77

Freecom ToughDrive Custom SE
£141

Iomega eGo Portable Hard Drive
£107

LaCie Little Disk
£120

Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac
£143

Western Digital My Passport Studio
£115

Freecom's ToughDrive Custom SE indulges people's penchant for personalised tech.

>> TEST ONE

Design quality

We compare the drives' aesthetics and construction

Freecom's ToughDrive Custom SE comes with six coloured, rubberised sleeves, as well as a clear one to use with the bundled art decals. The Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac is particularly attractive, with a brushed metal finish and LEDs that light up the 'snowstorm' pattern at the back of the drive.

Western Digital's My Passport Studio features the company's famous book-like design. It includes a slider to cover the ports when in transit and an LED capacity gauge that gives a rough idea of how full the drive is. The Iomega eGo Portable has a lovely red finish, but a slightly odd shape. The bundled USB cable has two heads, so you can take up an extra USB port for additional power if required. We're less impressed by LaCie's effort, though, which picks up fingerprints very easily and has a cap that looks vulnerable to getting lost. Only the LaCie and Seagate drives can be stood on their edge, so bear this in mind if that's important to you.

>> TEST RESULTS

Buffalo MiniStation Lite	★★★☆☆
Freecom ToughDrive SE	★★★★☆
Iomega eGo Portable	★★★½☆
LaCie Little Disk	★★☆☆☆
Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac	★★★★☆
WD My Passport Studio	★★★½☆

>> TEST TWO

Speed test A

Testing each drive using its fastest connection

For this test, we use the fastest connection method offered by each drive, with speed-boosting software installed where available. It reflects the speeds you're likely to achieve on your own Mac, taking advantage of speed-enhancing factors such as FireWire and bundled turbo drivers.

Using benchmarking utility *QuickBench 4*, we assess each drive's random and sequential read and write speeds, taking the standard average times to transfer files of between 4K and 1MB. For both of our speed tests the drives are connected directly to the Mac, not through a hub or extension; we use the drive cables supplied.

Unsurprisingly, the FireWire 800 is fastest, with Western Digital's turbo drivers giving it the edge over the Iomega and Seagate models. LaCie's FireWire 400 connection keeps it ahead of the USB-only drives. The Buffalo's turbo drivers are not yet Snow Leopard-compatible, and make little difference to its speed. The Freecom is bare USB-only.

>> TEST RESULTS

Buffalo MiniStation Lite	★★½☆☆
Freecom ToughDrive SE	★★☆☆☆
Iomega eGo Portable	★★★★☆
LaCie Little Disk	★★★☆☆
Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac	★★★★☆
WD My Passport Studio	★★★★★

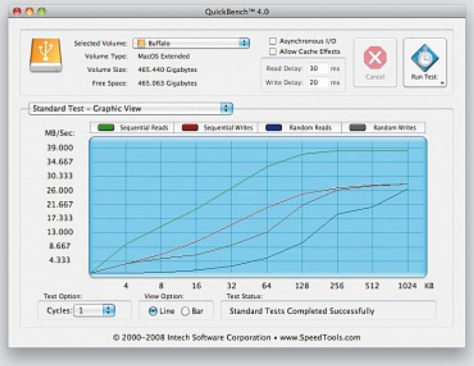
Western Digital's FireWire 800 with turbo drivers roars ahead in speed test A.

>> HOW WE TEST / What makes a good portable hard drive?

We run a series of tests on the hard drives to see which performs best. First of all, we check design and aesthetics - not just how good they look, but also their build quality and functionality. Of key importance is our two-speed test to measure each drive's read and write performance.

Our first speed test uses the fastest connectivity method available, using any bundled software designed to improve transfer speeds, thereby giving an accurate representation of the performance you're likely to achieve on your own Mac. Of course, portable drives are all about taking your data from A to B, and maybe transferring it to a machine lacking FireWire options, and without the bundled turbo software installed. Thus our second speed test uses non-enhanced USB transfer.

Power consumption is tested by connecting under low power conditions. If you need to use your drive by connecting to a USB hub, it's worth bearing this test in mind. Additional features are covered, along with bundled extras such as carry cases and software. Finally, there's our value-for-money test.



QuickBench™ 4.0

Selected Volume: Buffalo
Volume Type: MacOS Extended
Volume Size: 465.440 Gigabytes
Free Space: 465.063 Gigabytes
☐ Asynchronous I/O
☐ Allow Cache Effects
Read Delay: 30 ms
Write Delay: 20 ms
Standard Test – Graphic View
Test Option: Cycles: 1
View Option: ● Line ○ Bar
Test Status: Standard Tests Completed Successfully
© 2000–2008 Intech Software Corporation • www.SpeedTools.com

QuickBench 4 helps us assess read and write speeds.

TEST THREE

Speed test B

Via USB connection, minus any turbo software

The chances are you want something you can use to transfer data between your Mac and other computers. These secondary computers may not offer FireWire, and you might not be able to install your drive's speed-enhancing drivers. So for this test, we look at how well the drives perform under a non-enhanced USB connection, the lowest common denominator of external hard drive connectivity. *QuickBench 4* is our test software.

The fastest drive on offer was the LaCie, with a random read speed of 11.2MB/s and a random write of 15.4MB/s. The Buffalo drive had a slightly quicker random write speed at 15.5MB/s, but its random read of 9.6MB/s was decidedly average.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there was very little to differentiate the drives in this test – all put in a performance of between 9.6 and 11.2MB/s random read speed, and 13.1 to 15.5MB/s random write speed. Sequential read and write speeds were similarly tight.

TEST RESULTS

Buffalo MiniStation Lite	★★★☆☆
Freecom ToughDrive SE	★★★½☆
Iomega eGo Portable	★★★☆☆
LaCie Little Disk	★★★★☆
Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac	★★★☆☆
WD My Passport Studio	★★★★☆

The LaCie Little Disk drive inched ahead in the standard USB transfer stakes.

The slick FreeAgent Go for Mac has its own FireWire 800 dock plus a handy carry case too!

TEST FOUR

Other features

We look at the bundled applications and accessories

Full marks to Seagate here. The FreeAgent Go for Mac is bundled with a useful FireWire 800 dock, making it really convenient to connect to your computer. When you need to take it away with you, there's a handy simulated leather carry case too.

Western Digital's My Passport Studio and the LaCie Little Disk offer drawstring pouches for carriage. The LaCie and Freecom drives include an integrated USB cable, though both (especially Freecom's) are too short. The Little Disk has a programmable shortcut button that launches an app of your choice, but this isn't yet compatible with Snow Leopard. It also has two FW400 ports so you can daisy-chain your peripherals, though we're not sure why you'd want to with a portable drive.

As mentioned elsewhere, the Buffalo and Western Digital models have turbo drivers. The LaCie is bundled with a backup app, the Western Digital has a drive manager and the Iomega a suite of downloadable apps.

TEST RESULTS

Buffalo MiniStation Lite	★★☆☆☆
Freecom ToughDrive SE	★★★☆☆
Iomega eGo Portable	★★★☆☆
LaCie Little Disk	★★★☆☆
Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac	★★★★★
WD My Passport Studio	★★★★☆

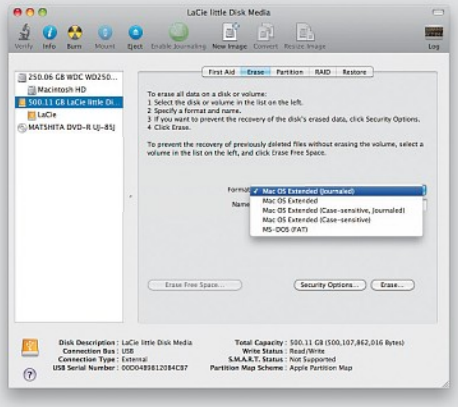
FILE FORMATS EXPLAINED / What formatting options are available to you?

Disk Utility, found in **Applications/Utilities**, can reformat drives in a number of ways. But what's the difference between them?

Mac OS Extended format was introduced to optimise storage capacity. Under Mac OS Standard format, a hard drive could only support 65,536 allocation blocks, so as drive capacities grew, very small files took more and more space. Mac OS Extended format lifts this restriction, so tiny files take up no more room than their data demands.

Journaled helps protect the file system from power outages or hardware failures. It keeps a continuous record of changes to files on the disk, speeding recovery time after a crash. **Case-sensitive** simply means you can put files with the same name but in a different case in the same directory, so (for example) 'MacFormat.doc' would not overwrite 'macformat.doc'.

If you wish to share data between a Mac and a PC using your drive, you must format it under FAT32. It's fully compatible with a Mac, but file sizes are limited to 4GB.



To erase all data on a disk or volume:
1 Select the disk or volume in the list on the left.
2 Specify a format and name.
3 If you want to prevent the recovery of the disk's erased data, click Security Options.
4 Click Erase.

To prevent the recovery of previously deleted files without erasing the volume, select a volume in the list on the left, and click Erase Free Space.

Disk Description : LaCie little Disk Media
Connection Bus : USB
Connection Type : External
USB Serial Number : 00D0489812084C87
Total Capacity : 500.11 GB (500,107,862,016 Bytes)
Write Status : Read/Write
S.M.A.R.T. Status : Not Supported
Partition Map Scheme : Apple Partition Map

Use Disk Utility to format and/or partition your new portable drive.

The Iomega eGo struggles to power up when connected via a USB extension cable.

>> TEST FIVE

Limited power

The best performers in sub-optimal conditions

When connected directly to our iMac, as opposed to going through a hub or extension, all the drives mount without an additional USB power cable. But as some portable drives are more tolerant of indirect USB connections than others, we also try them in an unpowered hub connected to a Mac through a short USB extension cable. If it fails, we add a USB power lead, connected to the keyboard's USB port. Not an ideal way of powering a portable HDD, of course, but the idea here is to test the drives under less-than-ideal conditions.

The Freecom passes our test with flying colours. The Buffalo and Western Digital drives lack the means of adding a USB power cable, but both mount perfectly well without one. Iomega's and LaCie's drives fail to mount when powered solely by the USB hub, but make an appearance on the desktop when also connected to the keyboard for power. The Seagate fails, even with the secondary power source.

>> TEST RESULTS

Buffalo MiniStation Lite	★★★★½
Freecom ToughDrive SE	★★★★★
Iomega eGo Portable	★★☆☆☆
LaCie Little Disk	★★☆☆☆
Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac	★☆☆☆☆
WD My Passport Studio	★★★★½

>> TEST SIX

Value for money

Which drive gives you the most bang for your buck?

For this test, we use the current price of a drive on Amazon.co.uk and assess each drive's value for money. As they're all 500GB in size, capacity isn't an issue, but it's interesting to see how the retail price correlates to the features offered.

Although we appreciate the Freecom ToughDrive Custom SE, with its integrated USB cable and interchangeable rubberised covers, it's far too expensive at more than £140. Remember, this is for a USB-only drive with no bundled software. The Buffalo MiniStation Lite was almost as minimalistic, but at only £77, it's a bargain for a USB drive.

Seagate's FreeAgent Go for Mac is the most expensive, but you're getting a lot for your money. The convenience of having a docking station isn't to be underestimated, but whether it's worth the extra cost is up to you. Finally, the three FireWire-and-USB drives, from Iomega, Western Digital and LaCie, are all agreeably priced at between £107 and £120.

>> TEST RESULTS

Buffalo MiniStation Lite	★★★★★
Freecom ToughDrive SE	★★☆☆☆
Iomega eGo Portable	★★★★☆
LaCie Little Disk	★★★★☆
Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac	★★★☆☆
WD My Passport Studio	★★★★☆

The USB-only Buffalo MiniStation Lite, while minimalistic, is a bargain at £77.

>> THE WINNER / Western Digital My Passport Studio

My Passport Studio's handy, book-styled form factor means it can fit into your shirt or trouser pocket, and its bundled drawstring carry pouch is just the right size for your drive and a connectivity cable or two. It passed our power consumption test with flying colours, mounting on the desktop even when connected through an unpowered USB hub. All in all, it's great for carrying data from computer to computer.

Although the My Passport Studio lacks a FireWire 400 socket, it comes bundled with a FireWire 400-to-800 lead, so it's effectively triple-interface. Its turbo-boosted FireWire 800 connection was the clear winner in our first speed test, and while there wasn't much to differentiate the devices under bare USB, it acquitted itself very well. Add in handy features such as a sliding port cover and an LED capacity gauge, and you have an excellent drive at an agreeable price.

Also worth a mention is Seagate's FreeAgent Go for Mac. A delicious-looking device with real style, its docking station is a boon. However, it's hard on the wallet, and performed poorly in our power consumption test. But if you're looking for a cheap, capable USB drive with few bells and whistles, the Buffalo MiniStation Lite is ideal.

Mac FORMAT Winner!
WD

PORTABLE HARD DRIVES / At a glance

Buffalo MiniStation Lite

★★★★☆

Freecom ToughDrive Custom SE

★★½☆☆

Iomega eGo Portable Hard Drive

★★★☆☆

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price	£77	£141	£107
Weight / dimensions	190g / 12.9 x 8 x 1.5cm	200g / 14 x 8 x 1.9cm	230g / 8.9 x 14.3 x 1.6cm
Version of OS X required	10.2.7 or later	10.3 or later	10.1 or later
Connectivity options	USB 2.0	USB 2.0	USB 2.0, FireWire 400 and 800
Speed test A results **	9.8/15.7	10.5/13.6	13.7/19.3
Speed test B results **	9.5/15.6	10.5/13.6	9.8/14.7
Capacities available	250GB, 320GB, 500GB	250GB, 320GB, 500GB	320GB, 500GB
Bundled software	TurboUSB	None	QuikProtect for Mac, MozyHome Online Backup, EMC Retrospect Express
Bundled extras ***	None	Coloured sleeves, photo template, cover designs	Drop Guard
Cables included	USB 2.0	USB extension cable	USB 2.0 (twin head), FW400, FW800
Colours available	Black, red, white	Six sleeves included	Red, silver

LaCie Little Disk

★★★☆☆

Seagate FreeAgent Go for Mac

★★★½☆

Mac FORMAT Winner!

Western Digital My Passport Studio

★★★★★

SPECIFICATIONS			
Price	£120	£143	£115
Weight / dimensions	195g / 12.9 x 8.1 x 1.8cm	223g / 13.7 x 8 x 1.8cm	180g / 12.7 x 8.1 x 1.8cm
Version of OS X required	10.3 or later	10.4.9 or later	10.4.11 or later
Connectivity options	USB 2.0, FireWire 400	USB 2.0, FireWire 800	USB 2.0, FireWire 400, FireWire 800
Speed test A results **	11.4/17.8	15.2/16.9	15.8/19.7
Speed test B results **	11.2/15.4	10.7/13.1	10.7/13.7
Capacities available	250GB, 320GB, 500GB	250GB, 320GB, 500GB, 640GB	320GB, 400GB, 500GB
Bundled software	LaCie Sync and LaCie Backup Assistant	None	Turbo driver, Drive Manager
Bundled extras ***	Carry pouch, shortcut button	Docking station, carry case	Carry pouch, illuminated capacity gauge
Cables included	Integrated USB 2.0, FW400, USB power cable, USB extension	FW800, FW400/800, USB 2.0, USB power cable	FW800, FW400/800, USB 2.0
Colours available	Black	Silver	Silver

* Prices taken from Amazon.co.uk, and correct at the time of writing. ** Random read/write speeds expressed as MB/s. Higher is better. *** Excluding connectivity cables.

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Mac User Groups

Find fellow Mac enthusiasts near you! Here's a list of the UK & Ireland MUGs

[1] Aberdeen MUG
Aberdeen
davidjearly@mac.com
www.abdnmug.co.uk

[2] Bristol & Bath MUG
Bath
info@bbmug.co.uk
www.bbmug.co.uk

[3] Berkshire & North Hampshire MUG
Reading area
i.j.burn@reading.ac.uk

[4] Blackburn MUG
Blackburn
info@bmug.co.uk
www.bmug.co.uk

[5] Bracknell Forest MUG
Bracknell, Berks
office@bfmuguk.org
www.bfmuguk.org

[6] ClubMac Ireland
Dublin
secretary@clubmac.ie
www.clubmac.ie

[7] Cork University College
Cork
d.murphy@cs.ucc.ie
www.ucc.ie/mug

[8] Cumbria Mac Enthusiasts
Barrow-in-Furness
CumbriaMacEnthusiasts@steel.clara.net
home.clara.net/steel/cme_home.htm

[9] Deaf Mac Users
Website group for the hard of hearing
nick@sturley.co.uk
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/deaf-macs/

[10] Durham University MUG
Durham
durmac@durham.ac.uk
www.dur.ac.uk/durmac

[11] Edinburgh MUG
Edinburgh
admin@edmug.org.uk
www.edmug.org.uk

[12] Exeter MUG
Exeter
examug@mac.com
www.examug.org.uk

[13] FAMUS (Fife)
Kirkcaldy
davidwlaw@btinternet.com
www.fifedirect.org.uk/famus

[14] Glasgow MUG
Glasgow
glas.mug@mac.com
www.glasmug.com

[15] Isle of Wight MUG
Isle of Wight
admin@iowaug.org.uk
www.iowaug.org.uk

[16] Kent & East Sussex MUG
Kent
www.kesmug.org

[17] London MUG
London
secretary@lmug.org
www.lmug.org.uk

[18] MACUS (Manchester)
Manchester
davjaeger@macunlimited.net

[19] Midlands MUG
Birmingham
group@mmug.org.uk
www.mmug.org.uk

[20] Northern Ireland MUG
Belfast
matt@nimug.org

[21] North West Mac Group
Near Warrington
info@nwmug.co.uk
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[22] Norwich MUG
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norwichmacusergroup@mac.com

[23] Oban MUG
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www.potmug.com

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admin@s-mug.com
http://s-mug.com

[27] Southampton Uni
Southampton
trf.106@soton.ac.uk

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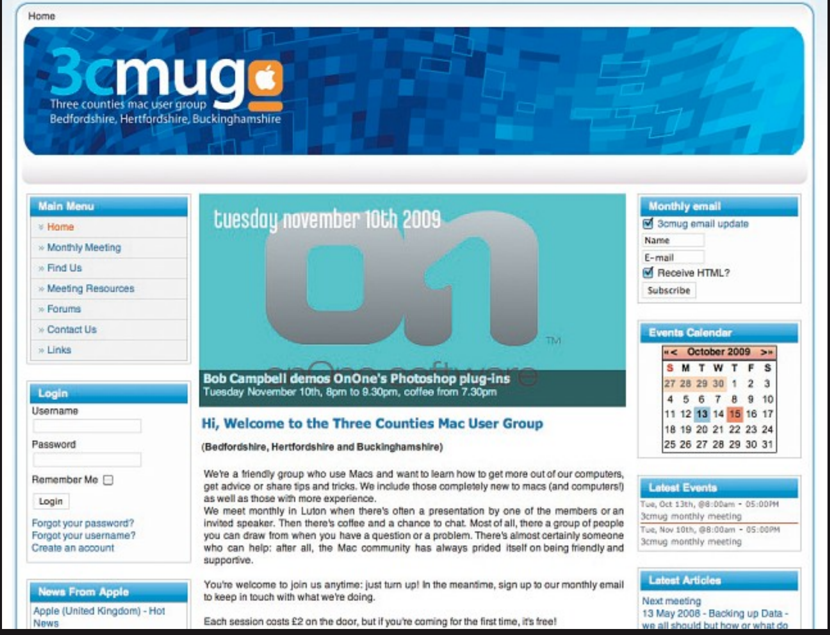
MUG OF THE MONTH / 3 Counties MUG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Tue, Oct 13th, @8:00am - 05:00PM
3cmug monthly meeting
Tue, Nov 10th, @8:00am - 05:00PM
3cmug monthly meeting
Latest Articles
Next meeting
13 May 2008 - Backing up Data - we all should but how or what do

Bob Campbell demos OnOne's Photoshop plug-ins
Tuesday November 10th, 8pm to 9.30pm, coffee from 7.30pm

Hi, Welcome to the Three Counties Mac User Group

(Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire)

We're a friendly group who use Macs and want to learn how to get more out of our computers, get advice or share tips and tricks. We include those completely new to macs (and computers!) as well as those with more experience.
We meet monthly in Luton when there's often a presentation by one of the members or an invited speaker. Then there's coffee and a chance to chat. Most of all, there a group of people you can draw from when you have a question or a problem. There's almost certainly someone who can help: after all, the Mac community has always prided itself on being friendly and supportive.

You're welcome to join us anytime: just turn up! In the meantime, sign up to our monthly email to keep in touch with what we're doing.

Each session costs £2 on the door, but if you're coming for the first time, it's free!

The Three Counties Mac User Group meets monthly in Luton. The three counties in question are Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Meetings take the format of a presentation either by one of the members or an invited speaker. There's always the chance to have a chat afterwards and seek out somebody knowledgeable to help you with your Mac problems. See **www.3cmug.co.uk** for more details. ●

[29] South Wales MUG
Cardiff
swmug@applewiz.biz
www.swmug.org.uk

[30] Sneem MUG
Sneem
sean@smug.ie
www.smug.ie

[31] Stroud Mac User Group
Stroud
jmuy@aol.com

[32] Suffolk Mac User Group
Ipswich
mike@mikekwasniak.co.uk
suffolkmacusergroup.co.uk

[33] Swindon MUG
Swindon
swindonmacusergroup@googlemail.com
http://swindonmacusergroup.googlepages.com

[34] Surrey MUG
Surrey
monigmagr@mac.com

[35] Three Counties MUG
Luton, Bedfordshire
info@3cmug.co.uk
www.3cmug.co.uk

[36] Wessex MUGs
Fareham, Dorchester, Bournmouth & Salisbury
enquiries@wamug.org.uk
www.wamug.org.uk

[37] Yorkshire MUG
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ymug@mactalk.info
www.ymug.org

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macformat@futurenet.com

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"The Mac mini is now mightier than ever with a faster processor and more memory"

» MAC MINI P116

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TOP GEAR

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Buyers' Guide

- DESKTOPS
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Graham Barlow
Editor

As we predicted last month, Apple has brought out a new line of Macs just in time for Christmas. First up, its most popular Mac, the MacBook, has had a brand-new lick of paint. It's still cased in plain white polycarbonate, but now has a new and more robust unibody-style enclosure, as well as a seven-hour built-in battery and a glass trackpad, both of which feature on the MacBook Pro. The bad news is that it's £50 more expensive at £799, but there's also more RAM (4GB) and a bigger hard drive, so all in all it looks like a good deal to me.

Apple has also redesigned the iMac, with one model at 21.5 inches and the other at a whopping 27 inches. We've got a review model of the 27-inch iMac in the office right now for testing, and I can confirm that it looks absolutely huge!

Look out for our reviews of the new Macs and the exciting new Multi-Touch Magic Mouse next issue.

» BUYING ADVICE YOU CAN TRUST

Our mission is to ensure that when you buy a Mac-related product, you are completely informed about its best and worst features. We have a cast-iron policy of editorial independence. **For the latest prices and full review see the TechRadar URL listed next to each review.**

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How to buy a new Mac

Not sure which Mac to buy? We'll help you make the right choice

»DID YOU KNOW THIS?

On the UK Apple online store, you can order a custom-built Mac. The most expensive Mac Pro configuration available costs £10,213 - and that's without adding an Apple Cinema Display or ordering additional software.

As we were going to press, Apple updated its iMac range, as well as beefing up the specs of its Mac minis and revising its one and only MacBook. The new iMac range also comes with a new Apple Magic Mouse, which incorporates a Multi-Touch surface for 360-degree scrolling, two-fingered swiping and screen zoom.

All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips as a minimum, so whichever Mac you choose, you know it's going to be powerful. So now you need to choose whether you need a notebook or a desktop. To work on the move, you need a notebook.

> *"All Macs come with Intel Core 2 Duo chips as a minimum, so whichever Mac you choose, you know it's powerful"*

Apple offers three choices of desktop Mac. The Mac mini may look tiny, but it packs a punch.

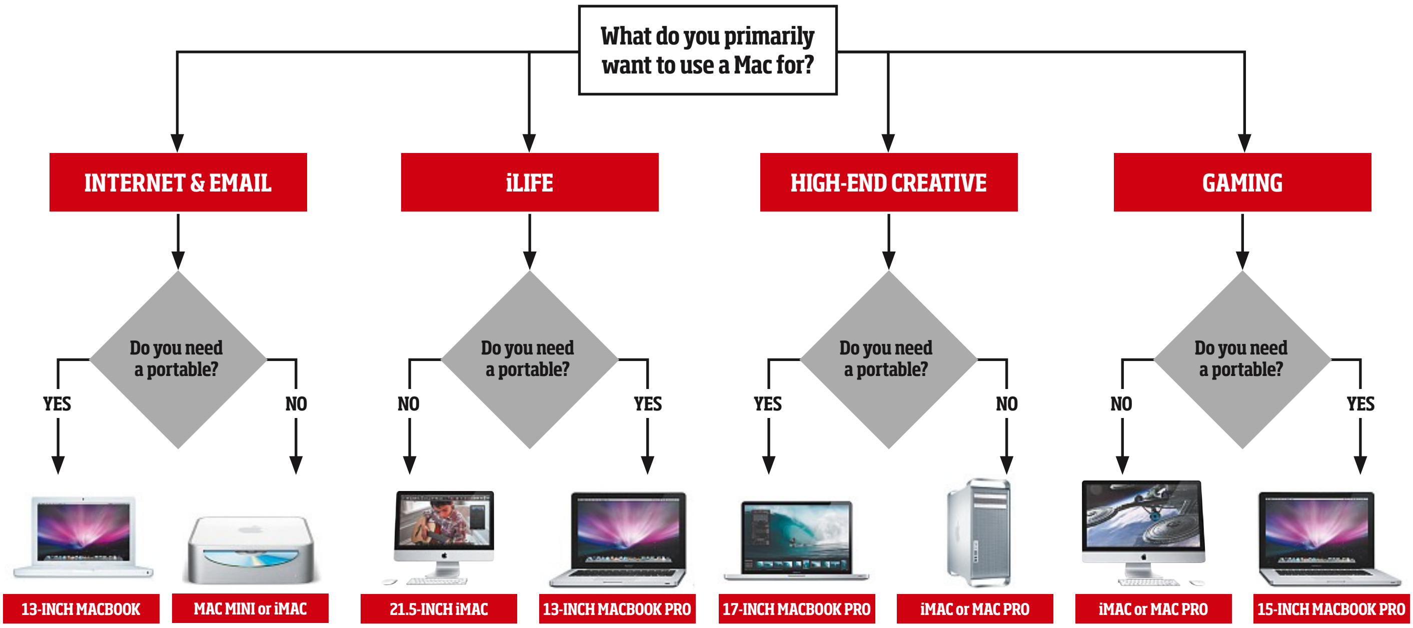
Making your mind up

Notebook choice is between the MacBook Pro, MacBook and MacBook Air. The brand-new white MacBook is just £799, and offers a 2.26GHz processor, a 250GB hard drive and a 13-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen display. Although it's Apple's entry-level notebook, it's a powerful and capable machine that's ideal for students and backpackers.

The MacBook Pro family had been extended, and is now more affordable than ever. It's ideal for more processor-hungry work like video-editing or running 3D programs, as they run at higher speeds and have a faster hard drive. Starting us off are the 13-inch models with 2.26 or 2.53GHz processors and up to 4GB RAM. There are now three 15-inch versions to choose from: 2.53GHz, 2.66GHz or 2.8GHz. From £1,299, these mid-level MacBook Pros offer more screen space than the 13-inch versions and better graphics. They also have built-in SD card slots to import digital photos.

Finally we have the daddy of the family, the 2.8GHz 17-inch version with a 500GB hard drive and up to eight hours of wireless productivity. Elsewhere, the thin and light 13-inch MacBook Air has seen a speed boost and price drop. It does lack a built-in DVD drive and only has one USB 2.0 port, but it's ideally suited to a regular business traveller who takes advantage of wireless networking. An external SuperDrive will set you back an extra £64.

CHOOSING A MAC / WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?


What do you primarily want to use a Mac for?
INTERNET & EMAIL
iLIFE
HIGH-END CREATIVE
GAMING
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
Do you need a portable?
YES
NO
Do you need a portable?
NO
YES
13-INCH MACBOOK
MAC MINI or iMAC
21.5-INCH iMAC
13-INCH MACBOOK PRO
17-INCH MACBOOK PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
iMAC or MAC PRO
15-INCH MACBOOK PRO

If you want a desktop Mac, you have the choice of a Mac mini, iMac or Mac Pro. If you're on a budget or desk space is limited, go for a Mac mini. The October 2009 revision improved the machine's specs without increasing the price. For £499, you now get a 2.26GHz machine with 2GB RAM and 160GB hard drive. The high-end model offers a 2.53GHz processor with 4GB RAM and a 320GB hard drive for £649. You will need a monitor, keyboard and mouse, though.

Re-imagined iMacs

The October 2009 revision to the iMac range gave us four new machines, with prices starting at £949. The two cheaper iMacs boast a 21.5-inch display, while the two high-end models include a 27-inch screen. Interestingly, three of the four iMacs have 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processors, which can be increased to 3.33GHz if you customise your iMac at the online Apple Store, but the top-of-the-range model is based on a 2.66GHz quad core Intel Core i5, with a 2.8GHz quad core Intel Core i7 available as a configuration option.

These all-in-ones almost rival a Mac Pro, although for really intensive work you need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a minimum spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro. With numerous configuration options, you can be sure the Mac you order is built to your requirements. Prices start from £1,899, but with the options of 32GB RAM upgrades and larger hard drives, you could spend a fortune. If you opt for a Mac mini or Mac Pro, you'll need a display, and Apple's Cinema Displays are ideal, with the 30-inch HD display at £1,173 or the 24-inch LED display at £635.

All new Macs come with Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard and the *iLife '09* suite preinstalled. ●

> *"For really intensive work, you need to buy Apple's high-end Mac. With a minimum spec of one Quad-Core 2.66GHz Intel Xeon processor, there's nothing you can't throw at a Mac Pro"*

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

The most expensive MacBook Pro custom configuration available on Apple's online store is a 17-inch, 3.06GHz model costing over £3,440.

The latest portable Macs come complete with a gorgeous and hard-wearing aluminium finish.

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21.5-inch 3.06GHz

£949

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 3.06GHz

£1,349

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics, 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

iMac

Updated October 2009

21.5-inch 3.06GHz

£1,199

- 3.06GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 21.5-inch glossy widescreen (1,920x1,080 pixels)
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4670 graphics, 256MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FireWire 800; 1xSD card
- Ships with Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

27-inch 2.66GHz (Quad Core) £1,599

- 2.66GHz Intel Core i5 Quad Core • 27-inch glossy widescreen (2560x1440 pixels) • 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 1TB hard drive • 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • ATI Radeon HD 4850 graphics, 512MB DDR3 memory • 4x USB 2.0 ports; 1x FW 800; 1xSD card; video-in port • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09, Magic Mouse, keyboard

>> DID YOU KNOW THIS?

Despite being tiny, the latest Mac mini from Apple now has five USB 2.0 ports and one FireWire 800 port.

2.26GHz 160GB

£499

- 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 2GB RAM (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 160GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Updated October 2009

Mac mini

2.53GHz 320GB

£649

- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo
- 4GB RAM (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 320GB Serial ATA, 5,400 rpm hard drive
- 3MB shared L2 cache
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB of shared DDR3 SDRAM
- 8x double-layer SuperDrive (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW)
- AirPort Extreme (802.11n)
- 1x FireWire 800 port
- 5x USB 2.0 • Mac OS X Snow Leopard, iLife '09
- Mini-DVI to DVI adaptor

Mac Pro

Quad-Core
£1,899
- 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 3GB RAM (3x 1GB DDR3 ECC SDRAM) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
- 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD±RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
- Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

8-Core
£2,499
- 2x 2.66GHz Quad-Core Intel Xeon • 6GB RAM (6x 1GB DDR3 ECC) • NVIDIA GeForce GT 120 with 512MB of GDDR3 with Mini DisplayPort and dual-link DVI video output
- 640GB 7,200rpm Serial ATA 3Gb/s • 18x SuperDrive with double-layer support (DVD+R DL/DVD± RW/CD-RW) • 3x open full-length PCI Express 2.0 expansion slots • 5x USB 2.0; 4x FireWire 800 ports
- Keyboard & Mighty Mouse

Updated March 2009

13-inch 1.86GHz
£1,149
- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 1.86GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor • 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 120GB Serial ATA, 4,200rpm
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port
- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch 2.13GHz
£1,349
- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels • 2.13GHz Intel Core 2 Duo processor
- 2GB DDR3 SDRAM • 128GB solid-state drive
- Built-in 802.11n WiFi and Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM • Mac OS X Snow Leopard • 1x USB 2.0 port
- Mini DisplayPort
- MagSafe power adaptor

13-inch white 2.26GHz
£799
- 13.3-inch glossy widescreen, 1,280x800 pixels • 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo • 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB RAM (2x DDR2SDRAM)
- 250GB Serial ATA,5,400rpm
- 8x SuperDrive (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB shared DDR3 SDRAM
- AirPort Extreme • Built-in iSight video camera
- Bluetooth 2.0

13-inch 2.26GHz
£899
- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.26GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 2GB (2x 1GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 160GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

13-inch 2.53GHz
£1,149
- 13.3-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,280x800 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM • Precision aluminium unibody
- Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.53GHz
£1,299
- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 250GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x (DVD±R DL/ DVD±RW/CD-RW) • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Precision aluminium unibody • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.66GHz
£1,499
- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.53GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 3MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 320GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 256MB GDDR3 memory • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09
- 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card slot

15-inch 2.8GHz
£1,699
- 15.4-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,440x900 pixels
- 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM) • 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA • SuperDrive 8x
- NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB GDDR3 memory + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory • Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09
- 1x FireWire 800, 2x USB 2.0, 1x SD card

17-inch 2.8GHz
£1,849
- 17-inch LED-backlit glossy widescreen 1,920x1,200 pixels
- 2.8GHz Intel Core 2 Duo 6MB shared L2 cache
- 4GB (2x 2GB DDR3 SDRAM)
- 500GB, 5,400rpm Serial ATA
- SuperDrive 8x • NVIDIA GeForce 9400M with 256MB DDR3 SDRAM + 9600M GT with 512MB GDDR3 memory
- Mac OS X Snow Leopard and iLife '09 • 1x FireWire 800, 3x USB 2.0, 1x ExpressCard/34 slot

Updated October 2009

MacBook Air

MacBook

MacBook Pro

iPod
Music
Videos
Photos
Podcasts
Extras
Settings
Shuffle Songs
Now Playing
MENU
9:42 AM
Akon
Beautiful
Freedom
3:40
-1:32
2 of 14
MENU

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> *"The new 32GB and 64GB iPod touch feature improved performance and support for OpenGL ES 2.0 graphics"*

How to buy an iPod

The iPod family has never looked better; we help you find your ideal model

The iPod range got a significant update in September 2009. The nano enjoyed the biggest revision, with a new camera that captures audio and video, but can't take still photographs. It also offers a larger screen at 2.2 inches corner to corner, an FM radio with Live Pause functionality and a pedometer.

The shuffle's VoiceOver feature makes its way to the nano too, so you can navigate through your artists, songs and playlists without looking at the screen. Curiously, although the 16GB nano has dropped in price to £135 from £146, the 8GB model is up to £115 from £107, making the higher-capacity nano a much more attractive option.

The iPod shuffle has had a minor update. You now have five colours to choose from, not just black or grey. It comes in two capacities, a 2GB model for £45 and a 4GB version for £59. For our money, the 4GB shuffle is better value. If you're feeling rich, there's a special edition iPod shuffle stainless steel model, which is available exclusively from Apple stores (including online) and costs £75. It's very shiny, but considering it's functionally identical to the standard 4GB model, is it really worth the extra money?

Keeping in touch

The iPod touch also got an upgrade in September 2009, but not with a camera, as had been predicted. The 16GB model is dropped and a new 64GB version added. The 32GB model is reduced in price to £229 from £283, and the 8GB version is down to £149 from £165. The new 32GB and 64GB iPod touch models feature improved performance and support for OpenGL ES Version 2.0 graphics, which is great news for gamers. Now your games can offer more realistic textures and even greater detail.

And finally, don't forget the classic. At £189 for 160GB, it still offers the best cost-per-GB ratio of any iPod. ●

Updated September 2009

iPod classic

iPod classic 160GB

£189

- Up to 40,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 200 hours of video
- Available in black and silver
- 2.5-inch screen
- 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 36 hours (audio)
- Battery lasts up to 6 hours (video)
- 103.5x61.8x10.5mm
- 140g

iPod nano 8GB

£115

- Up to 2,000 songs
- Up to 7,000 photos
- Up to 8 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
- Includes camera & FM radio
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

iPod nano 16GB

£135

- Up to 4,000 songs
- Up to 14,000 photos
- Up to 16 hours of video
- Available in silver, black, purple, blue, green, yellow, orange, pink and PRODUCT (RED) • 2.2-inch diagonal screen • 320x240 pixels
- Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) or 4 hours (video)
- Includes camera & FM radio
- 90.7x38.7x6.2mm
- 36.8g

Updated September 2009

iPod nano

iPod shuffle

Updated September 2009

iPod shuffle 2GB

£45

- Up to 500 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in a range of colours
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPod shuffle 4GB

£59

- Up to 1,000 songs
- No ability to display photos or videos
- Available in a range of colours
- No screen
- VoiceOver technology enables iPod to talk to you
- Battery lasts up to 10 hours (audio)
- 45.2x17.5x7.8mm
- 10.7g

iPhone

Updated June 2009

9:42 AM
8 of 38
Cancel
Trim
Voice Control
call
play
shuffle
Cancel
315° NW

iPhone 3G 8GB

£342.50

- Available in black
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g)• Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR Battery lasts up to 24 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 7 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (talktime)
- 300 hours (standby)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 133g

For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPhone 3GS 16GB

£440.40

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g

For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPhone 3GS 32GB

£538.30

- Available in black or white
- 3.5-inch widescreen
- 320x480 pixels • WiFi (802.11b/g) • Quad-band GSM, tri-band 3G • Assisted GPS • Bluetooth 2.0 + EDR
- Photo and video geotagging
- Battery lasts up to 30 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 10 hours (video) • Battery lasts up to 12 hours (talktime)
- 115.5x62.1x12.3mm • 135g

For contract and tariff info go to **www.o2.co.uk**

iPod touch

Updated September 2009

Menu
36,310
05:43

iPod touch 8GB

£149

- Up to 1,750 songs
- Up to 10,000 photos
- Up to 10 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 32GB

£229

- Up to 7,000 songs
- Up to 25,000 photos
- Up to 40 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

iPod touch 64GB

£299

- Up to 14,000 songs
- Up to 50,000 photos
- Up to 80 hours of video
- Available in black
- 3.5-inch screen
- 320x480 pixels
- WiFi (802.11b/g)
- Nike + iPod support
- Battery lasts up to 22 hours (audio) • Battery lasts up to 5 hours (video)
- 110x61.8x8mm
- 120g

>> iPHONE vs iPOD TOUCH

The iPhone is not just a phone – it's also a great iPod. Steve Jobs even called it "the best iPod Apple has ever made". But at 8GB the iPhone 3G is not capacious, which is annoying as the 3.5-inch screen just calls out for you to load it up with bulky video files. The latest iPhone 3GS comes in a 32GB size, which is more like the kind of capacity you need for movies, but there are some key differences between the iPod touch and iPhone.

The obvious one, of course, is that the iPod touch doesn't have the ability to make phone calls. Fair enough, but remember that this also means that the iPod touch users won't have access to the internet – browsing, updating weather and stock widgets and sending and receiving email – when out of range of a WiFi hotspot.

The payoff is that an iPhone costs a lot more, and you also have to pay for the data you use. You either have to take out a contract with O2 or buy it on Pay & Go from £342.50.

The iPod touch currently lacks many of the iPhone's features, including a camera, voice control and digital compass. Rumours that a camera would be included in a future iPod touch were not confirmed in the September 2009 update, but it may happen in the future. To find out more about iPhone 3GS tariffs visit **www.o2.co.uk**.

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NEW APPLE PRODUCTS

THE NEW IMAC

The new Apple iMac features either a 21" or a massive 27" LED backlit display with a widescreen 16"9 aspect ratio. This is the fastest iMac yet - Now with dual core Intel processors starting at 3.06GHz.

PRICES FROM £825.00

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NEW PRODUCT! AT CW

NEW MACBOOK

13.3 inch LED backlit glossy widescreen display. Housed in a white polycarbonate unibody enclosure that slips easily into your bag or backpack. Also features a glass multitouch trackpad for precise cursor control.

PRICES FROM £689.00

£792.35 Inc VAT (958€) • Exclusive CW Super Offer

NEW MAC mini

This little powerhouse is big on speed and big on memory but extra small and extra green. Up to 2.66HGz and up to 4GB memory, built-in wireless and a NVIDIA Graphics card.

PRICES FROM £429.00 £493.35 Inc VAT (598€)

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BUYERS' GUIDE

KEYBOARDS & MICE

Apple Wireless Keyboard

★★★★★

Price: £47 **Reviewed:** Issue 189
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/53760
Key specs: Dimensions: 27x11.5x1.43cm; Connections: Bluetooth only; Power: 3x AA batteries; Requires Mac OS X 10.4.10

+ Stunning; wireless; easy to type on; compact
− Needs Mac OS X 10.4.10 to work

"The Wireless Keyboard is superb in every way. It's another design classic from the Apple creative team."

Wacom Bamboo Fun Small ★★★★★

Price: £89 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637575
Key specs: 1,024 pressure levels; Gestures
+ Gesture support, good software bundle
− Expensive

Macally mGlide ★★★★☆

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619206
Key specs: Wireless operation; small form factor
+ Perfect match for your Apple keyboard
− It's a little small

PRINTERS & ALL-IN-ONES

Canon PIXMA MP620

★★★★½

Price: £108 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/477048
Key specs: Printer (9,600x2,400dpi, 5-ink printing); scanner (2,400x4,800spi); 150 sheets in rear tray and 150 in cassette

+ Great print quality; easy to use; good value for money
− WiFi needs to be set up over USB

"The mix of stellar print quality and intelligent design decisions means that the Canon MP620 is a great buy."

HP Officejet Pro 8500 ★★★★☆

Price: £189 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603509
Key specs: Printer/scanner/email; 4,800dpi
+ Packed with features; great text printing
− Average photo printing; expensive

Lexmark E260dn ★★★★☆

Price: £218 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/268952
Key specs: Mono laser printer.
+ Cheap to run, easy set-up and great text quality
− Simple feature set

DISPLAYS

Apple Cinema Display

★★★½☆

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500220
Key specs: 24-inch LED screen, 1,920x 1,200, 16.7 million colours, three self-powered USB ports, iSight camera

+ Beautiful colour reproduction; impressive sound; oozes quality
− Display stand needs revamping; only for Macs with Mini DisplayPort

"An incredible piece of kit for Macs with a Mini DisplayPort. Screen quality is first rate, with great consistency."

Samsung 2233SW ★★★★½

Price: £159 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/628604
Key specs: Low-cost SyncMaster monitor
+ Excellent value for money
− No speakers

Hanns G Hi221DP ★★★★☆

Price: £118 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/500421
Key specs: 22-inch widescreen, 1,680x1,050 res
+ A solid performer; good looking
− Terrible built-in audio

SPEAKERS/HEADPHONES

Sennheiser CX 300-II

★★★★★

Price: £19 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Web: www.sennheiser.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/562193
Key specs: Frequency response 19Hz-21KHz; Impedance 16Ω; Weight 4g; Extras: three sets of cups and carry pouch

+ Superb value; great audio at a bargain price
− Slightly flabby bass; there are better buds around, but not at this price

"We can't say it loudly or plainly enough: buy a set of Sennheiser CX 300-II. Accomplished sound, and cheap."

Revo Blok ★★★★½

Price: £195 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/593649
Key specs: Aux input for all recent iPods
+ Rich, deep sound; excellent remote
− Not for iPhone; can't sync with Mac

Altec Octiv AIR M812 ★★★★☆

Price: £270 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/638130
Key specs: Wireless; iPod dock; FM tuner; Aux
+ Polished, rounded sound; very stylish
− Could play nicer with an iPhone

DIGITAL CAMERAS

Canon EOS 500D

★★★★☆

Price: £576 (body) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Web: www.canon.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/596771
Key specs: 15.1MP; 4,752x3,168 res; HD recording; Card formats: SD, SDHC; File formats: JPEG, RAW.

⊕ Increased ISO sensor; HD DV recording; 3-inch LCD
⊖ High price; no external mic socket for video

"If you're happy to pay for the privilege of high-quality movies, this EOS is a great buy."

Olympus μ Tough 8000 ★★★★☆

Price: £252 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/603073
Key specs: 12MP; 5-18.2mm lens
⊕ Waterproof to 10m; shockproof; good wide angle
⊖ Controls are awkward to use

Jobo photoGPS ★★★½☆

Price: £96 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/567177
Key specs: Accuracy: 10m; Recording time: 0.2 secs
⊕ Convenient geotagging for Places
⊖ Too expensive

DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERAS

Samsung VP-HMX 20C

★★★★☆

Price: £375 **Reviewed:** Issue 202
Web: www.samsung.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/528224
Key specs: 2.7-inch LCD; movie capture at 2.1MP and still image at up to 4MP; HD lens delivering 10x optical and 10x digital zoom

⊕ Good screen; lightweight; offers full HD resolution
⊖ Really need to shop around to find affordable price

"This lightweight HD camera captures high-quality video and still images. Its 80GB internal memory is a plus point."

Canon HV30 ★★★★½

Price: £755 **Reviewed:** Issue 201
Full review: www.techradar.com/468942
Key specs: HDV; DIGIC II processor; MiniDV/SD card
⊕ Superb stills and video; better than HDD
⊖ Cumbersome to use

Panasonic SDR-S26 ★★★☆☆

Price: £179 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/561668
Key specs: Sensor: 1/8 inch CCD; Compression: MPEG-2
⊕ Small enough to fit in coat pocket
⊖ Files need converting to play on Mac

ROUTERS/NETWORKING

AVM FRITZ!Box 7270

★★★★★

Price: £180 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.fritzbox.eu
Full review: www.techradar.com/621127
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 4x Ethernet, 1x WAN; 802.11n; modem supports ADSL and ADSL2; integrated DECT base station

⊕ Packed with features, including impressive array of telephony functions
⊖ No simultaneous dual band

"The router's advanced traffic-shaping feature really impressed. An extremely high quality piece of kit."

Iomega Home Media ★★★★☆

Price: £102 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/577291
Key specs: 500GB; 1x Gigabit Ethernet; 1x USB 2.0
⊕ Easy to set up and use; elegant interface
⊖ Can't set up playlists

Billion BiPAC P104 ★★★★☆

Price: £85 **Reviewed:** Issue 207
Full review: www.techradar.com/560834
Key specs: Transfer rate up to 200Mbps
⊕ Great alternative to WiFi
⊖ Bulky, though this is inevitable

STORAGE

My Book Studio II 4TB

★★★★½

Price: £410 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Web: www.wdc.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/618319
Key specs: 4TB; USB 2.0, FireWire 400/800 and eSATA connectivity; can be reconfigured to different RAID settings

⊕ Four terabytes; triple interface
⊖ Not exactly cheap; chassis is a little flimsy

"Impressive performance and connection for those who need extra space. Pleasantly styled and easy on the eye."

Buffalo TeraStation III 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £635 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Full review: www.techradar.com/604216
Key specs: 2TB capacity; 2x Gigabit Ethernet
⊕ Fast read/write performance; huge storage space
⊖ Expensive even for capacity; flimsy door

Apple Time Capsule 2TB ★★★★☆

Price: £379 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/629850
Key specs: 1x USB 2.0, 3x Ethernet, 1x WAN
⊕ Simultaneous dual band; high capacity
⊖ No built-in modem

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COOL CW PRICE

WACOM - NEW BAMBOO RANGE

INTRODUCING AN EXCITING, NEW WAY TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR COMPUTER.
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Pre-Installed Software
Autodesk SketchBook Express 2009
FREE!

AXIOTRON MODBOOK
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SPECIAL CW OFFER!

TOP PRODUCT! AT CW
Western Digital
GREAT VALUE

WD MY PASSPORT ESSENTIAL 1TB BLACK
These elegant portable drives are simple to use, light and easy to carry, and require no power adapter. Synchronized and secure - Plug My Passport into any PC, edit files, read e-mail, and view photos.

WOW! £159.00
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BUYERS' GUIDE

iPOD ACCESSORIES

Belkin TuneBase FM

★★★★★

Price: £56 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Web: www.belkin.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/628966
Key specs: A very cheap way of integrating your iPhone into your in-car music system

+ ClearScan; RDS; can charge other USB device; great build quality
− FM signal can be crackly, and sometimes drops out altogether

"As a cheap way of tying your iPhone into your car's system, it can't be beat."

Belkin shuffle cable ★★★★☆

Price: £12 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Full review: www.techradar.com/637638
Key specs: Use third-party earbuds with iPod shuffle
+ Gives you shuffle controls with any earbuds
− Can't clip iPod inside your clothes

RothDock ★★★★☆

Price: £70 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611361
Key specs: Also compatible with iPhone 3G/3GS
+ No configuration needed; remote control
− No video streaming

MAC ACCESSORIES

Shure PG27 USB Mic

★★★★☆

Price: £139 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Web: www.shure.co.uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/611534
Key specs: Frequency response: 20Hz-20kHz; Pattern: cardioid polar; Attenuation; 0db /-20db

+ Great range of sound; easy to set up; on-mic monitoring capability
− Single microphone use only

"Shure's PG27 mic represents the new breed of USB-based active mics. If you're after a single-mic setup, it's great."

Elgato turbo.264 HD ★★★★½

Price: £128 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/596751
Key specs: Output: iPod high/standard; iPhone; PSP
+ Super-fast H.264 encoding
− No longer supports PowerPCs; expensive

Sanho HyperMac 222Wh ★★★★★

Price: £302 **Reviewed:** Issue 212
Full review: www.techradar.com/619294
Key specs: 222 watt-hours; Weight: 4.7lbs
+ Charges internal batteries; can power iPhone
− Expensive; high-capacity models are very heavy

iPHONE APPLICATIONS

Twitterrific Premium

Sources
MacFormat
MacFormat
@LewisBeechey
http://tinyurl.com/o67r9 :-)
TomIsGeek
@MacFormat Hi MacFormat :D
James Turner
@MacFormat Witty bon mots. I'm sure I don't know what you mean! :-)
Dave Rutt

★★★★½

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.iconfactory.com
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.2 or later
Available from the App Store, directly through your iPhone or via iTunes.

+ Lovely interface; beefed-up features list; support for multiple accounts
− Reposting between accounts is tricky; basic stuff needs configuring

"An application that definitely repays the time spent exploring it. A firm favourite."

Birdhouse ★★★★★

Price: £2.39 **Reviewed:** Issue 209
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.1

+ Draft multiple Twitter notes before you tweet
− Only useful if you are a complete Twitter addict

Documents To Go ★★★★☆

Price: £2.99 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
System reqs: iPhone OS 2.0

+ A great option for creating and editing text docs
− No support for RTF files; cannot edit Excel files

SYSTEM UTILITIES

Micromat TechTool Pro 5

★★★★★

Price: £90 **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.micromat.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/528167
System reqs: PPC G4 or G5 or any Intel Mac; OS X 10.4.9 or later; DVD ROM drive; Quartz Extreme graphics support

+ Fast and stable; comprehensive tools; proactive alerts and monitors
− Updated FTP disappoints

"If your budget can only accommodate one commercial system utility, make it TechTool Pro 5."

Prosoft Drive Genius 2 ★★★★½

Price: £68 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Full review: www.techradar.com/589923
System reqs: G4, G5 or Intel; OS X 10.4.9 or later
+ Comprehensive set of tools
− RAID not supported

DiskTools Pro 3.0.2 ★★★★☆

Price: £37 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611578
System reqs: G4 or later; OS X 10.3.9 or later
+ Great interface; packed with features
− Can't use on networked volume

HOME OFFICE

Apple iWork '09

★★★★☆

Price: £69 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/500293
System reqs: G4 (500MHz or faster) processor, Mac OS X 10.4.11 or later, 512MB RAM (1GB recommended).

⊕ Keynote is a market leader, and the rest of the apps are catching up
⊖ Both Numbers and Pages still lack some basic features

"The '09 update sees some good features added and some general improvements. Worth it for Keynote alone."

APP4MAC Twin 1.01 ★★★★★

Price: £25 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611922
System reqs: Power PC G4, G5/Intel Mac
⊕ Back up to multiple destinations; easy to use
⊖ None

FileMaker Pro 10 ★★★★★

Price: £261 **Reviewed:** Issue 205
Full review: www.techradar.com/500402
System reqs: G4/G5; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.11
⊕ Script triggers; customisable toolbar; SMTP
⊖ Lacks platform-specific look and feel

VISUAL TOOLS & LAYOUT

BeLight Printfolio

★★★★½

Price: £49 **Reviewed:** Issue 208
Web: www.belightsoft.com
Full review: www.techradar.com/589659
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4 or higher; 204MB hard drive space. Product is available in English or German.

⊕ Comprehensive range of apps, as user-friendly as it could possibly be
⊖ Not great at exporting between them

"An excellent suite of design apps, offering professional results at a hobbyist price."

ImageWell 3.7.1 ★★★★½

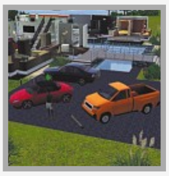
Price: $20 (£14) **Reviewed:** Issue 209
Full review: www.techradar.com/595105
System reqs: Mac OS X 10.4.9 or later
⊕ Efficient and feature rich; decent web tools
⊖ Ugly, clunky interface

Dream Capture ★★★★☆

Price: £7 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611327
System reqs: G5 Mac; 3.5MB disk space
⊕ Instantly saved videos; good value for money
⊖ Some file sizes very large

GAMES

The Sims 3



★★★★★

Price: £40 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Web: www.eagames.com
System reqs: Intel Core Duo processor; 2GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7; ATI X1600 or NVIDIA 7300 GT; 128MB VRAM; or GMA X3100 (GMA 950 not supported)

⊕ Looks great; more customisable; goals-based gameplay; easy to explore
⊖ It should be an online game; there are no pets

"Hopefully The Sims 4 will be a fully-interactive online game. In the meantime, The Sims 3 is the perfect sequel."

Civ IV: Beyond the Sword ★★★★★

Price: £20 **Reviewed:** Issue 214
Web: www.aspyr.com
System reqs: G5/Intel 1.8GHz; 512MB RAM
⊕ Loads of scenarios; new civilisations; Great VFM
⊖ Won't win over non-fans of previous games

Qwak ★★★★★

Price: £13 **Reviewed:** Issue 210
Web: www.qwak.co.uk
System reqs: 5.5MB hard drive space
⊕ Old-school gameplay, 80-plus levels
⊖ It's all about points

MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE

Apple iPhoto '09

★★★★★

Price: £69 (iLife '09) **Reviewed:** Issue 206
Web: www.apple.com/uk
Full review: www.techradar.com/527969
System reqs: PowerPC G4 or G5, or any Intel Mac; 512MB RAM (1GB recommended); Mac OS X 10.5.6 or later; 4GB HDD space.

⊕ Practical tools, new options to export slideshow, Places a useful addition
⊖ Faces could be better, few cameras have GPS

"The new features are great, but there's some room for improvement in the Faces facial-recognition facility."

Apple Logic Studio ★★★★★

Price: £399 **Reviewed:** Issue 213
Full review: www.techradar.com/625541
System reqs: Intel Mac; 1GB RAM; Mac OS X 10.5.7
⊕ Powerful music studio; great tools; good value
⊖ Some minor bugs in the initial release

Anime Studio Debut 6 ★★★★☆

Price: £31 **Reviewed:** Issue 211
Full review: www.techradar.com/611940
System reqs: G4+; 256MB RAM; OS X 10.4.
⊕ Excellent features and tutorials
⊖ No texture mapping or lighting

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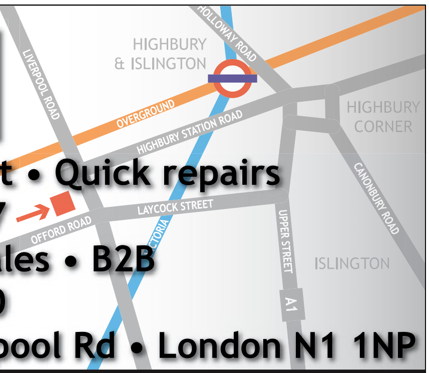

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Mac FORMAT ON SALE Wednesday 9 December 2009

ALL THIS AND MORE!

Contents subject to change

On the disc

● FULL SOFTWARE ● EXCLUSIVE DEMOS ● ESSENTIAL SHAREWARE ● READER OFFERS

Welcome to the disc

Issue 215

You'll notice a change with the *MacFormat* disc this issue. We've moved to a simpler and more intuitive way of navigating it. Instead of providing an interface program you can find your way around by simply opening its icon on your desktop and clicking through the folders on there. In each program folder you'll find the software itself – usually a .dmg file, which you need to drag onto your desktop to open, and a text file all about the program. In most cases there'll also be a webloc file, which will open a link to the software manufacturer's website. You may need to go to the website if the program you're using requires a serial number.

> *"We've moved to a simpler and more intuitive way of navigating the MacFormat disc this month. Try it!"*

You may have noticed in recent issues that we've been neglecting to include podcasts on the disc. This is partly due to there being such an array of other content to squeeze onto the disc that something has to give. But you'll be pleased to find that this month is a *MacFormat This Week* Podcast catch-up special, kicking off with podcasts from July through to October.

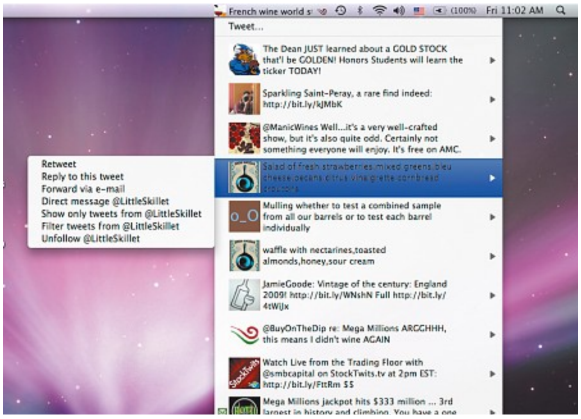
Each issue, New Media Editor Simon Holland selects a fantastic array of software for you to enjoy on your Mac.

>> FULL SOFTWARE

Twit Menulet 4

Access Twitter from the OS X menu bar

Now's your chance to delve into the social networking and micro-blogging sensation, Twitter. *Twit Menulet 4* enables you to send and read messages known as tweets – text-based posts that are 140 characters long and delivered to subscribers, known as followers. This full product enables you to monitor tweets on a scrolling ticker mounted to your OS X menu bar, without the need for a web browser or other standalone application. ●



The Dean JUST learned about a GOLD STOCK that'l be GOLDEN! Honors Students will learn the ticker TODAY!

Sparkling Saint-Peray, a rare find indeed: http://bit.ly/kJMbK

@ManicWines Well...it's a very well-crafted show, but it's also quite odd. Certainly not something everyone will enjoy. It's free on AMC.

Salad of fresh strawberries,mixed greens,bleu cheese,pecans,citrus vinaigrette,cornbread croutons

Mulling whether to test a combined sample from all our barrels or to test each barrel individually

waffle with nectarines,toasted almonds,honey,sour cream

JamieGoode: Vintage of the century: England 2009! http://bit.ly/WNshN Full http://bit.ly/4tWiJx

@BuyOnTheDip re: Mega Millions ARGGHHH, this means I didn't wine AGAIN

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Mega Millions jackpot hits $333 million ... 3rd largest in history and climbing. You have a one

Engage in the world of Twitter from the comfort of your OS X menu bar.

>> FULL SOFTWARE

GrupaDupa 1.0.3

Locate and delete duplicates files

When you're constantly working with documents and updating them regularly or swapping songs with friends, duplication is inevitable. *GrupaDupa* solves the problem at lightning speeds. Its developer, WordPower, tested this speed by scanning the entire content of one of its hard drives containing 126,963,803 files. It filtered out all the unique files, sorted the rest and created a report listing the 6,658 duplicates it contained. The operation took just 45 seconds to complete. See how quickly *GrupaDupa* can rid your own Mac of duplicates. ●

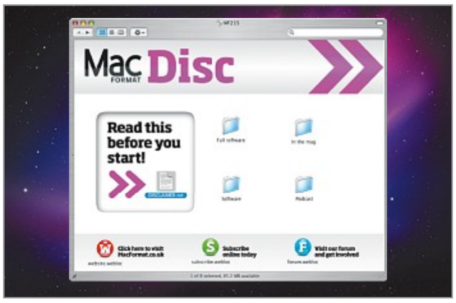
>> FULL SOFTWARE

SWF Encrypt 4.0.6

Secure your Flash content

These days, if you're looking to upload images to websites, you generally want to prevent them from being re-used without permission. To prevent copyright infringement, you can use *Flash*, but experienced nerds are still able to decompile or 'backwards-engineer' the SWF files for their own means. However, with *SWF Encrypt*, you can stop these ActionScript thieves in their tracks. This software is also useful if you're selling *Flash*-based services, as people will be less inclined to steal the code and more likely to purchase your product instead. ●

HOW TO / Install the programs on your disc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01 Loading the disc

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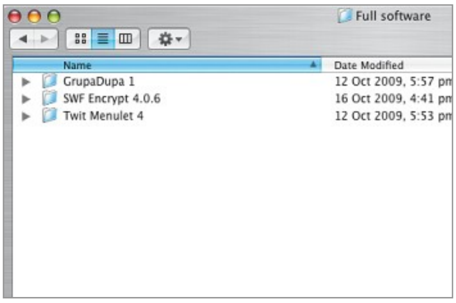

Name	Date Modified
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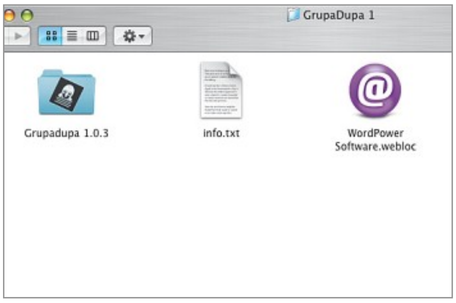
SWF Encrypt 4.0.6	16 Oct 2009, 4:41 pm
Twit Menulet 4	12 Oct 2009, 5:53 pm

02 The software

Navigate through the folders as you would those on your hard disk. Using the *Finder*, click on the names that correlate with the magazine sections and you'll be greeted with folders for each of the applications.



03 Getting the apps

Each software folder will house at least three icons. The first is an info text file where you can read more about the product. Then comes a webloc site link and, finally, the software itself. Drag it to your desktop to open.

Full disc contents

The complete list of what you'll find on your disc this issue

FULL SOFTWARE

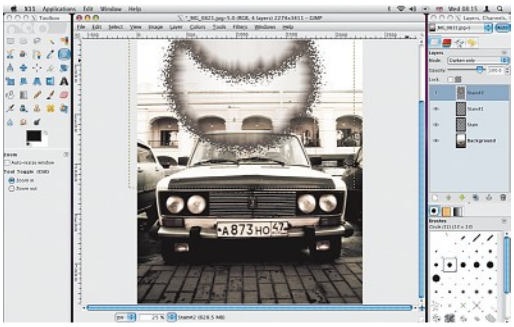
GrupaDupa 1
SWF Encrypt 4.0.6
Twit Menulet 4

RECOMMENDED

GrupaDupa 2.0
SWF Encrypt 6.0
Twit Menulet 5.0

TOP FREEWARE

Bean 2.4.1
Evernote 1.5
Mac HelpMate 3.0
MemoDate 1.1.6
Mocha 1.1.1
OnyX 2.1b4
Permanent Eraser 2.4
Plain Clip 2.1.1
The Unarchiver 2.1
Toady 1.1



Get your hands on the GIMP and check out our tutorial on page 51.

WIDGETS

Localhostr Widget 2.1
Temperature Monitor
Widget 2.8
Wikipedia Widget 0.9.4
Wireless Grapher 0.6

IN THE MAG

Games

Galcon 1.3.2

Group test

Drive Genius 2.2.1

QandA

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Reviews

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Shareware reviews

Brushes Viewer
Secret Folder 7.0

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Pixelmator 1.5
Spark 3.0b9
Stanza 1.0b18
Voluminous 1.0.7

Problems solved

Data Rescue 3.0
WhatsOpen 2.7

PODCASTS

July to October 2009

READER OFFERS / Save yourself £££s

Upgrade to SWF Encrypt 6.0

For a 20% discount, use the coupon code 'MacFormat' when ordering online at **www.amayeta.com**. Note the coupon code is case-sensitive and valid till 31 December 2009). This version supports *Flash 9/10* and *ActionScript 3.0*.

Upgrade to Twit Menulet 5.0

You can receive an instant 30% discount off the price when purchasing the latest version of *Twit Menulet* (version 5). To get your discount, simply write to orders@twitmenulet.com and mention *MacFormat* magazine.

GET YOUR SERIAL CODE

With the new interface comes a slight adjustment in your route to full product activation. The majority of this software will still require you to register online for activation. But now, you'll need to double-click the webloc '@' icon.

HAVING PROBLEMS?

In the unlikely event of your disc being defective, please email our support team at **support@futurenet.co.uk** for further assistance. If you would prefer to talk to a member of our support team in person, call **01225 822743**. If you have comments about the software we include or you have suggestions for software that you would like to see on future discs, please email to Simon Holland, New Media Editor, at **simon.holland@futurenet.com**

On your disc

Find three full programs plus a selection of widgets, tutorials, reviews and freeware

Mac FORMAT
ISSUE 215 / December 2009

MISSING YOUR DISC?
If your disc is missing, email support@futurenet.com or phone 01225 822743

Future Technology coverdisc

This disc has been thoroughly scanned and tested at all stages of production, but – as with any new software – we still recommend that you run a virus checker before use. We also recommend that you have an up-to-date backup of your hard disk(s) before using this disc.

Future Publishing cannot accept responsibility for any disruption, damage and/or loss of data to your data or computer system that may occur while using this disc, or the programs and data on it. We advise that you consult your network administrator before installing software on a networked Mac.

Coverdisc problems

If you are having difficulties using the *MacFormat* disc or any of its content, please visit our reader support website at www.futurenet.co.uk/support. On this regularly updated website, you'll find solutions to numerous commonly reported problems. If, after reading these, you are still experiencing difficulties with the disc, then please email our reader support team (support@futurenet.co.uk) or phone 01225 442244 and ask for coverdisc support.

Please note that we can only provide technical support for the installation of software. Unfortunately, we cannot give in-depth help on the applications, or on your hardware or operating system. For software support-related issues, please contact the relevant product's developers. We are unable to provide serial numbers over the phone.

Please also note that Future Publishing can only provide technical support for this disc for a period of six months after this magazine's on-sale date.

Other information

- Some programs may require free registration over the internet or phone; look in the software folders for details.
- Some software may not be available in all territories.
- Where relevant, program values quoted are prices when sold with original packaging and manuals.

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MAC215 DISC

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